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TO : Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: May 9, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (64-153)

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OF 82694

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING
ACTIVITIES IN CUBA
ANTI-RACKETEERING

G. I. I. F. CUBA (JFK)

~~Ext. By SP-10/10/58
1-242 23
1/19/82~~

Reference Havana letters 3/12/58, 3/18/58, 3/19/58 and 3/25/58; Miami letter 4/11/58; and Miami teletype 5/6/58, relaying telephone call from Legat, Havana.

There is set forth below additional information which has been developed concerning the activities of American gamblers in Havana since the submission of relet 3/12/58.

CASINOS IN OPERATION

WILBUR CLARK'S CASINO - HOTEL NACIONAL

This casino continues to be operated by individuals previously identified to the Bureau. SAM TUCKER, one of the interest holders in this casino, is assisted in the operation of the casino by JACK LANSKY, Miami top hoodlum.

On 3/12/58, Hav-31 advised that GEORGE ALBERT FRANCIS, a Haitian national who resides in Mexico and operates investment enterprises there, has a part interest in the casino in the Hotel Nacional. His brother, ALFRED FRANCIS, represents his interest in the casino.

Hav-31 also informed on 3/12/58 that SAM TUCKER had recently received a telephone call from BUDDY LAZAR that DICK GERSTEIN, States Attorney, Dade County, Florida, was coming to Havana and to take care of him. LAZAR indicated that GERSTEIN is a close friend of JAY WEISS and that WEISS had put up the money to get GERSTEIN into office. In this regard, Miami Winter Season report dated 2/21/58 contains the following information concerning GERSTEIN and WEISS:

- 8 - Bureau
- 1 - Havana

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2 cc NY MM/5/22/58 62-75147-210-134

REC-59

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EX-128

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HAV 64-153

JACK HARRIS, a New York broker. Source advised further on 4/30/58 that HARRIS is frequenting the casino in the Hotel Comodoro. Source related that HARRIS is residing at Calle 30, #310 in Miramar between 3rd and 5th Avenues, Havana, directly across the street from SID JACOBS, floor boss at the Sans Souci Night Club.

CUBA

Hav-31 advised on 5/7/58 that an individual named SALVATORE PAXTON from Tampa, Florida, is employed as a greeter at the Sans Souci Night Club.

OTHER 4

TROPICANA NIGHT CLUB CASINO

The gambling casino in the Tropicana continues to be operated by WILLIAM OTTO BISCHOFF, with alias Lefty Clark. The principal interest holders in this casino are Cubans, MARTIN FOX and ALBERTO ARDURA MOYA. ARDURA has previously been identified to the Legat, Havana, as "bag man" for ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, the brother-in-law of Cuban President, FULGENCIO BATISTA.

F. L. M. S.

On 4/25/58, Hav-4 advised that THEODORE GAGLIONE resides at the Riomar Apartments and is employed at the Tropicana Night Club Casino. In this regard, WILLIAM W. JOHNSTON, local Treasury Department representative, Havana, advised that THEODORE "GAGS" GAGLIONE was formerly tied in with SIDNEY A. BRODSON, well known Milwaukee hoodlum. BRODSON was interviewed by the Kefauver Committee in 1951.

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As previously noted, [redacted] has advised that GEORGE SADLOW of the LANSKY organization visited with WILLIAM OTTO BISCHOFF recently at the Tropicana.

HOTEL COMODORO CASINO

This casino continues to be operated by RALPH REINA, former Miami gambler. The principal interest holders in this casino are SANTO TRAFFICANTE and JOE STASSI. On 4/30/58, Hav-31 advised it appeared the bankroll furnished by JACK HARRIS to TRAFFICANTE had been for the purpose of bolstering up financial operations of the Hotel Comodoro Casino.

CUBA

HOTEL PLAZA CASINO

On 4/23/58, Hav-31 advised that an individual named "MUSCLES" who operated the razzle-dazzle at the Sans Souci

- 8 - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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