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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 19, 1954

SECRET

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (64-153)

AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

GIIF - Cuba

On October 19, 1954, Mr. EDWARD "TED" SCOTT, columnist for the English language daily "Havana Post" and a good contact of this office confidentially advised that on that date he had received a telephone call from Mr. GEORGE PENNINGTON, Democratic State Committee, 27 South 3rd St. Harrisburg, Pa. Mr. SCOTT said that PENNINGTON told him that columnist DREW PEARSON had suggested SCOTT's name to him and PENNINGTON then made inquiries of SCOTT concerning the activities in Havana of NORMAN ROTHMAN FBI No. 152585B.

It will be recalled that for the past several years ROTHMAN, a Pal of this office, has been the front man at the Sans Souci night club in Havana. During at least a part of this time ROTHMAN was reliably reported to be bankrolled by the SAMMY MANNARINO interests of New Kensington, Pa. It is thought possible that Mr. PENNINGTON's interest may have grown out of some Pennsylvania political problem involving MANNARINO.

Mr. SCOTT advised that he told PENNINGTON nothing on the telephone about ROTHMAN but suggested that PENNINGTON write him a letter suggesting what he desired to know. SCOTT has subsequently advised that he never received the letter.

On October 20, 1954 SCOTT advised that ROTHMAN had inquired of him concerning a good bank to deposit \$25,000. ROTHMAN intimated to SCOTT that he wanted this to be more or less a hideout bank account and SCOTT recommended him to the Bank of Nova Scotia and believes that ROTHMAN made the deposit there.

It is rather doubted that this twenty-five thousand dollar deposit has any special significance as it has come to the attention of this office that ROTHMAN, since closing the Sans Souci in April 1954, has been considerably in debt and owes money all over Havana, and it is thought that he was looking for a new bank in which to make a deposit in order that his creditors would not be aware of the fact that he now has money. ROTHMAN on October 25, 1954 advised Agents of this office that he hopes to be able to open the Sans Souci in late December 1954 and indicated that he would be required to pay a \$25,000 "license fee" to be permitted to operate.

The above is for the Bureau's information. Two extra copies of this letter are attached for forwarding by the Bureau to the Miami office for information purposes since ROTHMAN is well known in the Miami area.

CDA:JES

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EX-130

RECORDED-52

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Mr. Nease
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Gandy

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