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## Document Information

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FROM : SAC, MM  
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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NRO, ASSOC, HIALEAH RACE, LAW ENFORCEMENT,  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (67-75147-29)

DATE: January 20, 1958

FROM : SAC, Miami (62-1273)

ATTENTION: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MIAMI WINTER SEASON,  
1957 - 1958,  
CRIMINAL SECTION,  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

ReBulet 9/18/57.

HIALEAH RACE TRACK

Hialeah's opening day attendance on January 17, 1958, was 21,964 compared to 21,144 the previous season. The patrons wagered \$1,611,404.00 the opening day of this season as compared to \$1,561,305.00 the opening day of the 1956-57 season.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

MARTIN DARDIS, Chief of Police, North Bay Village, advised that WILLIE HARRIS, FBI Number 497131, a burglar and fence, on January 19, 1958, was driving a 1958 Mercury automobile bearing Florida License 1W-111394, and was at the Stork Bar, North Bay Village, drinking with Miami Chief of Police WALTER HEADLEY's son who is also on the Miami Police Force.

GAMBLING

JOHN MADALA, in charge of security, Hialeah Race Track, advised that OLLIE HARRIS, a Miami Beach gambler, contacted him and made an effort to obtain his permission to again attend the race meets. MADALA said he denied this permission to HARRIS. MADALA also advised that BERT M. GROBER, wa. "Wingey" Grober, FBI Number 2136776, part owner of the Cal-Neva Lodge, Lake Tahoe, California, contacted him

4 - Bureau  
2 - Miami

REF:GK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/11/85 BY SP6BJA/TEX

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Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Clayton  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

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2-12-78 ASG/jlh

for review at FBIHQ by  
HSCA re 12-22-77 request.  
(See Bufile #62-117290)

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HAND also advised that on January 17, 1958, the following individuals were ejected from the Hialeah Race Track:

RICHARD WILLIAM SEART, a tout residing in Miami;  
EDWARD S. LYONS, a tout of Waterbury, Connecticut;  
ALFRED BRISBEN, a tout of Cleveland, Ohio;  
VINCENT JAMES CILENTI, a bookmaker from Cleveland; and  
PHILIP KAUFMAN, a bookmaker of Miami Beach who, on occasions is a bartender at the Luau Restaurant, North Bay Village, which restaurant is operated by JOE COHEN, a former bookmaker of New York City, and PHILLIP YAWORSKY, Wa. Jerry Brooks, FBI Number 220267.

HAND further advised that on January 21, 1958, JOE RICCIO, FBI Number 285783, owner of Riccio's Restaurant, and ABE "SPARKY" NUSSBAUM, former east coast gambler and at one time owner of Sparky's, a night club adjoining Riccio's Restaurant, were in attendance at the track but were not ejected. He further advised that NATHAN GEWERTZ, formerly a member of the defunct S & G Syndicate of Miami Beach, was ejected from the Hialeah Race Track on January 21, 1958, and arrested by the Hialeah Police Department because he returned to a Florida race track after having previously been ejected from Tropical Race Track the season of 1957-58. HAND also advised that he was told by GEWERTZ to contact BARNEY WILSON, operator of a large automobile garage, who is a friend of JOHN ANGERSOLA, FBI Number 98146.

HERB RAU, PCI, advised that CHARLES TOURINE, FBI Number 695716, is trying to obtain gambling interests in Jamaica, British West Indies. RAU also advised in strict confidence that on June 29, 1957, he was in Havana, Cuba, with RICHARD GERSTEIN, State's Attorney, Dade County, and JULIAN COLE, and in the absence of GERSTEIN and COLE, had a conversation with NORMAN ROTHMAN, FBI Number 152585, at the Tropicana Night Club. According to RAU, ROTHMAN said he had obtained a Power of Attorney from BERNICE DeCASTRO, and through it hoped to gain control of what he described as an estate worth over five million dollars. BERNICE DeCASTRO was described as the daughter of a former prominent politician named LEVY in New York City, and her mother is Mrs. SADIE V. LEVY of New York and Miami Beach. BERNICE DeCASTRO has formerly been married to JOHNNIE STRATTEN, a

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*NO LOU*  
former partner of NORMAN ROTHMAN in the San Souci Night Club in Havana, and thereafter was married to GUS DeCASTRO, JESSE KIMMEL and is now married to MIKE MERCADO, a Cuban, *CUBA* and now resides in Havana. ROTHMAN, according to RAU, expects the matter to end up in the State's Attorney's Office in Miami and wanted RAU, a friend of GERSTEIN, to see that GERSTEIN was favorable to ROTHMAN. At the end of this conversation RAU also stated that ROTHMAN said that GERSTEIN could make a \$35,000.00 fee by representing the TRAFFICANTE brothers in criminal matters in Tampa, Florida. RAU stated he refused to listen to any further propositions from ROTHMAN and left. [RAU] stated that the text of this conversation with ROTHMAN was reduced to writing in the form of a "Transcript of Testimony" dated July 2, 1957, in the office of State's Attorney GERSTEIN in Miami.

SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., FBI Number 482531B, and HENRY TRAFFICANTE, FBI Number 625515B, are nationally-known racketeers at Tampa, Florida. SANTO TRAFFICANTE also has interests in the gambling casinos in Havana, Cuba.

RAU further advised that he observed THEODORE BROWN, Wa. "Sugar" Brown, a gambler from Sanford, Connecticut, at LOU WALTERS' Cafe de Paris, Miami Beach, on January 16, 1958, with JOE COHEN, owner of the Luau Restaurant, North Bay Village. RAU said that BROWN told him that he came over to Miami Beach for the night and was returning to Havana the following day.

*BRITISH WEST INDIES*  
RAU further advised that LOUIS "DUTCH" SHIELDS, a professional gambler and former owner of the Embassy Gambling Club in Jacksonville, Florida, is now in charge of gambling in Montago Bay, Jamaica, British West Indies. He said BOB SAUERS, formerly operator of the Jaragua Hotel, Dominican Republic where SHIELDS was in charge of the gambling casino, is now Manager of the Casa Montago Hotel, Montago Bay, Jamaica, which is to open on January 31, 1958. RAU said he received information that SAUERS was becoming too well acquainted with TRUJILLO's daughter, and TRUJILLO wanted SAUERS to leave the country.

RAU also informed that the publicity and public relations for the Capri Hotel, as well as the casino in Havana, Cuba, is handled by the advertising agency of NEWMAN, STERN and MANDELL of Miami Beach.

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RAU further advised that he received information that NORMAN ROTHMAN, previously mentioned, has a wife and child residing in Miami, as well as a common-law wife and child residing in Havana, Cuba.

EDWARD McMAHON, Special Agent of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Association, Hialeah Race Track, advised that VICTOR WILLIAMS, who formerly operated Williams' Grocery Store in Miami and presently operates the Teddy Bear Motel, Cherokee, North Carolina, and who is also connected with the bolita racket, is interested in horse racing and is attempting to secure a license to be placed in the name of his wife, CONNIE C. WILLIAMS.

He also advised that JAMES C. CHRISTIAN, who admittedly, from 1951 through 1953, acted as a banker of Cuban lottery in Dade County, is associating with TILLMAN "FOOTS" STALLING, a gambler in the Miami area, who allegedly is a bolita operator at this time. He said that Mrs. BEATRICE CHRISTIAN, the wife of JAMES C. CHRISTIAN, allegedly owns two race horses and is attempting to obtain a license with respect to running those race horses on the Florida tracks.

McMAHON further informed that he had been told that SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., previously mentioned, lends money to bolita bankers with the understanding that TRAFFICANTE will receive six percent of the gross profit of the operation.

#### NOTORIOUS PLACES OF AMUSEMENT

*Potential Criminal Informant*

HERB RAU, PCI, advised that the Riot Room, a night club located in Miami Beach, allegedly is operated by one DON RICKLES, an entertainer at that establishment. He pointed out that he has known RICKLES for a number of years and knows from his personal knowledge that RICKLES does not have any money to finance the night club, and judging from the patrons of the night club, he is positive that the establishment is owned by hoodlums with RICKLES acting as a front. He, however, possesses no knowledge as to the identities of the hoodlums.

#### HOODLUMS IN THE MIAMI AREA

MARTIN DARDIS, Chief of Police, North Bay Village, advised that he recently observed ROBERT SILVERBERG's 1958

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ANDREW MURCIA, Chief of Police, Surfside, Florida, advised that he received information from a reliable source that ~~FRANKIE CARBO~~, FBI Number 187972, actually owns the Community Barber Shop located in the Sunny Isle Shopping Center, Dade County, and that the shop is in the name of ~~TONY DESPIRITO~~. With respect to this barber shop, MIKE O'BRIEN, Deputy Sheriff, Dade County, advised that he received information that GABRIEL GENOVESE, Miami Beach PD Number A27038, also has a financial interest in that shop. MURCIA went on to relate that he was advised by the same source that CARBO is seen regularly at the shop, and a short time ago ~~VINCENNA ALO~~, Wa. "Jimmy Blue Eyes", FBI Number 554810, was seen at this shop. CARBO is generally known as the underworld czar in boxing circles and is a close associate of ~~JAMES D. NORRIS~~, President of the International Boxing Club. ALO is a New York bookmaker and gambler.

MURCIA also related that JAMES PLUMERI, Wa. Jimmy Doyle, FBI Number 672798, owns a Cadillac bearing New York 1957 license 57-184367, as well as two Chevrolets. He said the Chevrolets are kept at PLUMERI's home in Surfside and he assumed the Cadillac is kept in New York as it has never been observed in the Surfside area.

WESTON COOPER, teacher, Miami Beach High School, advised that PLUMERI had been absent from his home for about three weeks, but returned on January 14, 1958. PLUMERI is prominent in the garment trucking industry in New York, and is an uncle of JOHN, FRANK and TOM DIO GUARDIO, Wa. Dio. JOHNNY DIO recently was sentenced in the state courts at New York City on an extortion charge.

HERB RAU, PCI, advised that JIMMY DEMCHICK, FBI Number 4862730, is presently employed at the Carnival Bar, Tampa, Florida, and DEMCHICK's wife is employed as a barmaid in the cocktail lounge of the Fleetwood Hotel, Miami Beach. He stated that he received information that DEMCHICK has been issuing some local bad checks in Tampa and has been cheating at gambling.

JOE DeMARIA, a used car dealer in Miami, advised that KENNETH BERRESHEIM, Wa. Kenny Baker, purchased a new Cadillac convertible for \$6,000.00 from a local car agency

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