
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90056-10003
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 92-2781-54

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : HAV
TO : HQ
TITLE :
DATE : 05/14/1958
PAGES : 5
SUBJECTS :
SAMMY PAXTON
SANTO TRAFFICANTE JR.
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 06/09/1998
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE
COMMENTS : MEMO

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (92-2781)

DATE: May 14, 1958

FROM : Legat, Havana (92-1)

SUBJECT: SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., was.
ANTI-RACKETEERING

Reference Havana letter dated 4/3/58.

Set forth below is additional information developed by the Office of the Legal Attache, Havana, concerning the subject's activities and associates in Havana.

On 4/8/58, PCI [redacted], who is employed at the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore, Havana, advised on occasions in the past he has seen TRAFFICANTE in the gambling casino at the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore.

On 4/15/58, Hav-4 advised that subject had moved from the Rosita de Hornedo Hotel, where he was previously residing and that he was residing at Apartment #14-B in an apartment building located at Calle 12, #20, Vedado, Havana, Cuba. Source indicated that subject's wife was also residing with him at this address.

On 4/14/58, it was ascertained through observation at the casino in the Hotel Capri, Havana, that both FRANK RENZONI and BEN KRAKOVER are working at this casino. The presence of these two individuals at the casino tends to substantiate information previously furnished by reliable sources that SANTO TRAFFICANTE has an interest in the Capri Casino, since both RENZONI and KRAKOVER were employed by TRAFFICANTE at the Sans Souci prior to going to work at the Capri.

On 4/12/58, it was ascertained through observation that both JAMES BAKER and RAUL GONZALEZ are working at the casino in the Hotel Havana Hilton. This casino is managed by JOE SILESI, with alias Joe Rivers. Prior to going to work at the casino in the Hilton, both BAKER and GONZALEZ were employed at

- 6 - Bureau
- 1 - Havana

DJB:mjs
(7)

REC-4

MAY 50

92-2781-54

REC'D - HAVANA

MAY 20 1958

1958

Handwritten notes: *cnz*, *2MM*, *5/20/58*, *28*, *288*

Handwritten notes: *Cuba*, *Conservation*, *see P. 4*

Vertical stamp: INVESTIGATIVE DIV. U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

OTHER 4

HAV 92-1

the gambling casino in the Sans Souci. Their presence at the Hilton Casino would tend to substantiate information that TRAFFICANTE has a hidden interest in this casino and receives his "cut" from the interest of ROBERTO "CHIRRI" MENDOZA. *Cuba*

On 4/22/58, DANIEL F. MOOR, Manager, Hotel Rosita de Hornedo, advised that SANTO TRAFFICANTE left that hotel permanently on 1/10/58.

Santo Trafficante
On 4/25/58, Hav-4 advised that the ANGEL GONZALEZ, who is a close associate of the subject, is an individual named ANGEL GONZALEZ GONZALEZ, also known as El Gallago, who in the past has had dealings with the subject, both at the Sans Souci Gambling Casino and the gambling casino in the Hotel Comodoro. Source advised, in addition, that ANGEL GONZALEZ GONZALEZ also has business dealings with RAUL GONZALEZ JEREZ, who has previously been identified as a close associate of TRAFFICANTE and who was the former front man at the Sans Souci Gambling Casino. *Cuba*

OTHER 4

ba
On 4/30/58, Lieutenant HERIBERTO HERNANDEZ, head of the private police force, Hotel Nacional, and a member of the Department of Investigation, Cuban National Police (conceal), advised that he had received information that Lieutenant JORGE PENA HERRERA, the present head of the Alien Control Section of the Department of Investigation, Cuban National Police, had tried to "shake down" the subject for \$1,000 at the time PENA was conducting an investigation of the subject which had been requested by police authorities from New York. PENA reportedly told the subject he would turn in a completely negative report for this amount. Lt. HERNANDEZ stated subject did not give PENA the money, but did give him a pistol and the privilege of "free-loading" at the Sans Souci Night Club whenever he desired. As a result, according to HERNANDEZ, PENA turned in a report based on information available, but made no effort to expand his investigation. Lt. HERNANDEZ noted that PENA has been "on the take" ever since he assumed the supervision of the Alien Control Section in 1957.

On 5/5/58, PCI [redacted], who is employed as a doorman at Calle 12, #20 (conceal), advised that SANTO TRAFFICANTE has Apartment 14-B at this address. Source informed that TRAFFICANTE has no telephone and that TRAFFICANTE's wife is presently in the United States together with the wife of

HAV 92-1

Cuba
HENRY RUBINO, who occupies Apartment 5-B in the same building. Source stated that RUBINO and TRAFFICANTE are close personal friends and business associates. Source noted that since TRAFFICANTE's wife has been out of town, TRAFFICANTE has, on occasions, stayed in a small apartment available to him at the Sans Souci Night Club. It should be noted that sources have previously advised that HENRY RUBINO will operate the gambling casino in the Hotel Deauville and that TRAFFICANTE is reported to have a hidden interest in this casino.

On 5/13/58, PCI [redacted] advised that JACK LANSKY had visited HENRY RUBINO approximately eight days ago. Source also reported that in the past, on at least three or four different occasions, NAT HARRIS, one of the operators of the casino in the Hotel Capri, has visited SANTO TRAFFICANTE at his apartment. Source stated that RUBINO is presently working with TRAFFICANTE at the Sans Souci Night Club, apparently until such time as the Deauville Casino is opened. Source related further that JOE STASSI, Jr., the son of JOE STASSI, a partner of TRAFFICANTE in the Sans Souci Casino, is a frequent visitor at TRAFFICANTE's apartment.

OTHER 4

It should be noted that MEYER LANSKY also has an apartment in the same building in which TRAFFICANTE presently resides.

On 4/23/58, Hav-31 advised that SANTO TRAFFICANTE recently got an additional bankroll from an individual named JACK HARRIS, a New York broker. This same source advised on 4/30/58 that HARRIS is frequenting the casino in the Hotel Comodoro and it was possible the additional bankroll was for the purpose of sustaining gambling operations in the casino at this hotel, since TRAFFICANTE has the principal financial interest in this casino. 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.

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

On 4/30/58, Hav-31 advised that, as a result of conversations with members of the gambling element in Havana, it

Cuba
00029-10003