

DATE: 11-14-2017

**JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
IDENTIFICATION FORM**

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY: FBI  
RECORD\_NUMBER: 124-90068-10019  
RECORD\_SERIES: HO  
AGENCY\_FILE\_NUMBER: 62-75147-210-87

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR: FBI  
FROM: HAV  
TO: HO  
TITLE:

DATE: 10/24/1956

PAGES: 3

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

DOCUMENT\_TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT

ORIGINAL  
CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified

NEW  
CLASSIFICATION:

REVIEW\_DATE: 06/24/1998

UPDATE\_DATE:

STATUS Redact

RESTRICTIONS:

**JFK Act 6 (4)**

COMMENTS: MEMO

DATE: 11-14-2017

Havana (64-153)

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[HAV-4 advised on September 28, 1956, that] technically slot machines are considered legal in Cuba, but that importation of slot machines is against Cuban law. Source stated, however, that this law is not enforced in any manner and that a great number of slot machines have been brought into Cuba in recent months. Source advised that all of the major night clubs, bars and places of amusement in large cities of Cuba have slot machines installed in them. He advised that although slot machines are brought in with the knowledge and consent of Cuban Customs, they usually come in cartons which do not identify or state that slot machines are contained therein. He advised that this is done in order to evade the Cuban law prohibiting importation of slot machines and further to facilitate passing the machines through Customs without paying full duty for the value of the machines. (S) (u) n

Source stated that the gambling establishments in Havana are operating under a new Cuban law decree which legalizes gambling. He advised, however, that the slot machines in bars and grills are technically operating against the law inasmuch as these places do not have gambling licenses. [Source added that all of these places give a large pay-off to the Cuban National Police.] (S) (u)

Source advised that the principal importer of slot machines in Cuba is one ALBERTO ARDURA MOYA who is associated with MARTIN FOX in the Tropicana Night Club. Source stated that ARDURA is a close personal friend of Colonel ROBERTO FERNANDEZ MIRANDA who is the brother-in-law of President BATISTA of Cuba and who is Director of the Cuban National Commission of Sports. Source stated that ARDURA, through the influence of FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, has no trouble at all in placing slot machines in whatever places will accept them and that Cuba is being flooded with these machines at the present time. (S) (u)

Extra copies of this letter are attached for forwarding by the Bureau to the Miami (62-3398) and Pittsburgh (94-172 Sub M) Offices. Miami is requested to furnish the Bureau for forwarding to Havana any information available concerning importation of slot machines to Cuba and background information concerning the cases in which slot machines seized by the Miami Office were destined to Cuba. (S) n

Pittsburgh is requested to attempt to further identify NORMAN FARBER mentioned in referenced Pittsburgh letter as the individual who is allegedly setting up slot machines in Cuba for SAMUEL MANNARINO. (S) n

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