

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of The Director

75-69

7 March 1975

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States

Dear Mr. Belin:

This folder relates to
question #15 in your letter of
30 January 1975.

Faithfully yours,

E. H. Knoche

E. H. Knoche
Assistant to the Director

Attachment:
Folder: CIA Connections
with Organized
Crime

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SUBJECT: CIA Connections with Organized Crime

With one exception CIA has had no connection with organized crime. It does not conduct and has not conducted programs related to foreign connections with organized crime in the United States. If, in the course of normal counterintelligence operations abroad, this type of information comes to the attention of the Agency, normal procedure provides for its transmittal to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From August 1960 until June 1963, CIA attempted to carry out a sensitive operation in Cuba through individuals who either had connections with or were members of organized crime. At the beginning of the operation, the syndicate still had gambling operations in Cuba and, as a result, had contacts in that country. It was intended that this access be used in the particular operation. The attempt to use the syndicate's contacts in Cuba ended in early 1961 but the key figure in the United States continued to be involved in a later attempt to work through a Cuban refugee who had no other contacts with organized crime. The desired access never materialized, and the operation was terminated formally in 1963.