CASTRO DEATH PLOT REVEALED

Captured Exiles Appear at News Conference

By FENTON WHEELER

HAVANA (AP)—Two captured anti-Castro commandos told a news conference Sunday they carried bullets tipped with potassium cyanide in a plot to kill Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

The two were among six captured Cuban exiles the Cuban government put on display at an extraordinary news conference lasting more than three hours. All six said they were recruited and trained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Florida.

Details of the plot against Castro were not given. But two of the captives said assassination of Castro was part of their mission. Bullets coated with the deadly poison were among the captured arms, Cuban authorities said.

ADMISSIONS MADE

The carefully elicited admissions were made before delegates to the Havana conference of revolutionaries from 27 Latin-American countries and visiting United States newsmen. The performance obviously added spice to the meeting of the Latin American Organization of Solidarity—OLAS.

It also a p p a r e n t l y was aimed at offsetting Venezuel-an charges that Cubans landed guerrillas near Caracas, Venezuela, in May.

The Communist party newspaper Granma called the prisoners' admissions "proof of the crimes that imperialism makes against Cuba."

Under questioning by three Cuban army officers, two of the exiles said they were agents of



MAJ. ARMANDO FLEITES
Exile group commander

the CIA. In addition, four men captured July 18 were displayed with the arms and explosives the Cubans said they carried for terror and sabotage.

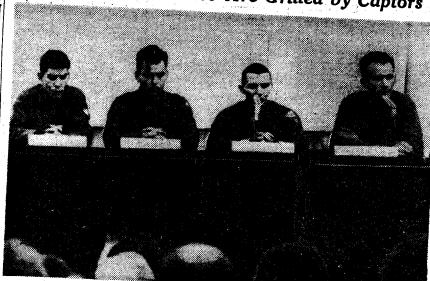
st FIFTH MAN WOUNDED
Cuban authorities said they also had arrested a fifth man, fidentified as Placeo Hernandez. They said he was shot and wounded while resisting arrest and he was not at the news conference.

ference.

In Miami the militant antiCastro exilé group, Second
Front of Escambray, said the
men captured in Cub a were
guerrillas from their organization.

Late Sunday night the six Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 3, Col. 2

Anti-Castro Prisoners Are Grilled by Captors



FOUR ANTI-CASTRO COMMANDOS are questioned Sunday by Cuban army officers in a news conference before delegates to the Havana conference of revolutionaries. Cuban authorities said they brought arms to

Cuba and were captured on July 18. They were identified, left to right, as: Jose Roy Rodriguez, Alberto Laucerica Diaz, Francisco Avila Azcuy and Pablo Garcia Roqueta.

prisoners were marched before television cameras and Radio Havana microphones. Voice broadcasts were monitored in Miami.

The four Second Front members said a fifth man who landed with them was wounded and in a Cuban hospital. They identified him as Placido Hernandez.

One of the Second Front men, Jose Roy Rodriguez, said he had been trained in radio communications by an agent of the CIA in the Miami area.

Andres Nazario, secretary general of the Second Front, said the expedition left for Cuba nearly four weeks ago.

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"They were going to infiltrate Cuba on a mission of subversion and guerrilla warfare and were going to join up with patriots inside Cuba," Nazario said.

The military commander of the Second Front group, Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, was captured in Cuba two years ago after infiltrating on a similar mission. He was succeeded as commander in Miami by Armando Fleites.

The six prisoners were said to

have lived in Miami but to have operated out of Tampa, Naples and Key West, Fla. All six said they were trained and recruited by the CIA.

Fleites said, "The objective of this mission most certainly was to kill Castro."

He said five members of the Second Front infiltrated Cuba, landing July 18, and said the fifth either escaped or was being withheld from the public by the Castro regime.

Fleites declined to comment further pending a news conferience later in the week. A source in the Second Front said Fleites was under an agreement with Life Magazine which the source said had helped finance the trip in exchange for exclusive rights to the story.

CAPTURED JULY 18
Cuban authorities said the four men who brought arms to Cuba were captured July 18
near Honda Bay in westernmost Pinar del Rio Province. They were identified as Jose Roy Rodriguez, Alberta Laucerica Diaz, Francisco 'vila Azcuv and Pab'o Garca Roqueta They said they were members of the Second Front.

Cuban army Lt. Jose Hamel identified one alleged CIA agent as Vincente P. Gonzalez Migoyo and said he was captured Saturday in Matanzas Province.

The other alleged CIA agen was identified as Jose Rabel Nunez, a Cuban government deector reported captured Sept.

All except Rabel were dressed in what Cuba authorities described as "counterrevolution-organize peasants against the ary uniforms," Rabel wore civilian clothes.

APPEAR FRIGHTENED

The prisoners appeared frightened at the outset of the conference but managed a few smiles during the more than three hours of questioning. They said they did not know if they were going to be shot.

Newsmen were permitted to question the six.

Although their stories were confusing and conflicting at times, it soon became apparent that the two men alleged to be CIA agents were accused of different operations.

In the midst of the confessions, the government also played a tape ecording from a mer agrarian reform official man it identified as CIA agent He said he defected in 1962 in

the men betrayed their com- for questioning. rades to Cuban authorities, but

it did not identify the two.
Garcia denied that killing the Cuban prime minister was part of his mission, but Laucerica said one objective was "the physical elimination of the leader of the Cuban revolution, Fi-del Castro."

TELLS OF TRAINING

to Cuba before, but said the cyanide. missions had been discovered Cuban

he felt his group could have He replied with a smile: "Cir-lence.

cumstances force me to say no.'

The four Second Front men said their objectives were to government, sabotage sugar mills and power facilities and assassinate Cuban leaders.

They said they had been told 90 per cent of the Cuban population was against the govern ment.

Garcia accused Armando Fleites, who he said organized the expedition, of betraying it by announcing the operation to Miami newspapers prematurely.

Cuban authorities said the four-man group came ashore from an "armed mother ship." Asked about his treatment since his capture Saturday, Gonzales said he had no complaints. "I expected something else," he said.

Rabel was identified as a for Tony Cuesta, captured in May an airplane and was met in Florida by U.S. officials who The government said two of hustled him off to Washington

> He said he was paid \$650 monthly, plus expenses, as a CIA agent and that more than 400 organizations in the United States worked for the CIA. Rabel, only one of the six who spoke English, said he came to Cuba to get his family out.

Cuban authorities declined to Roy said he was paid \$200 for say whether the prisoners would the mission and told a lengthy be shot. The authorities said (story of CIA recruitment and arms captured from the men in-training in "security houses" in Miami. He described carrying equipped with a silencer and out similar clandestine missions bullets coated with potassium

Cuban authorities on previous and had not been able to land. occasions have exhibited cap-Under questioning by news-men, Laucerica was asked if But it was evident they wanted more exposure this time and carried out an assassination. hence conducted a navva confer-