

Cuba coup suspected

9 men arrested in arms scheme

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — A plot U.S. officials say was aimed at overthrowing a foreign country—apparently Communist Cuba—has been revealed in the arrest of nine persons in a \$465,000 munitions smuggling scheme.

Allegedly stretching from New York to Louisiana, Texas and Mexico, the plot came to light with the arrests Saturday. In addition, nearly seven tons of plastic explosives were seized in a DC4 transport plane at Shreveport, La., federal agents said.

U.S. Atty. Gerald Gallinghouse said Sunday federal officials "have no reason to believe that the munitions were destined for any country other than Cuba."

The complaint charging two of the men, Murray Kessler of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Adler B. Seal of Baton Rouge, La., alleged they "knew and believed that this material would be used in an attempted overthrow of a foreign nation."

The nine were charged with conspiring to smuggle the explosives from the United States to Mexico for future shipment to a third country.

Among those arrested were Richmond Harper, a prominent South Texas rancher-banker, and Marion Hegler, a former inspector with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. They were taken into custody at Eagle Pass, Tex., where they reside, then released on \$25,000 bond each.

The federal complaint alleges dealings by a man known as "Carlos Diaz" to purchase as much as \$1.2 million in munitions and weapons, ranging from submachine guns to M16s. No guns, however, were aboard the plane raided by federal agents at Shreveport on Saturday.

Gallinghouse said that Diaz, identified only as a man claiming to be a Mexican citizen, was being sought along with another man.