

Cuba Exiles Attempt Ship Hijack

MIAMI (AP)—A militant anti-Castro Cuban exile said today his group dispatched a heavily armed war party to hijack the Communist ship that rammed its own lifeboat carrying three crewmen fleeing to asylum in the United States. The effort was called "Operation Pueblo."

Dr. Orlando Bosch said U.S. government agents arrested four of the raiders and seized one arms-laden boat for violating federal laws. Later, another member of the group said six men in a second boat returned to Miami without attacking the ship.

Bosch said the 10 men were sent to hijack the Cuban freighter 26 de Julio, which rammed the lifeboat 10 miles off the Virginia coast Tuesday when three men called "traitor crewmen" by the Fidel Castro government attempted to flee the vessel.

The raiders, Bosch said, "knew where the ship was going and the way it was taking. They could very well have attacked the 26 de Julio if the U.S. government had not interfered."

Edward Patton, supervising U.S. customs agent in Miami, confirmed the four men named by Bosch were arrested in a boat carrying arms. Patton said, "they made no statement" about their intentions. The four were jailed on charges of illegal arms exportation.

Exiles Charged with Conspiracy

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A federal grand jury said Wednesday a group of Cuban exiles practiced bombing missions out of Miami and conspired to bomb British, Canadian and Spanish ships "or any others loaded with supplies for Cuba."

Six other residents of Cuba, including Orlando Bosch, head of the revolutionary organization, Insurreccional Recovery Movement (MIR), were named in an indictment charging they conspired to drop the bombs.

A second count charged two exiles with conspiracy to export arms and a third that they conspired to export an airplane.

Named with Bosch in the bombing conspiracy charge were Marcos Rodriguez Ramos, Barbaro Balan Garcia, Louis Bertot, Jose Antonio Mulet and Jose Diaz Morejon.

Airline Plane

Hijacking

FROM PAGE ONE

The plane was hijacked by the plane and was flying to Panama. The pilot, who was coming from Havana, said he saw a light over the aircraft and I was sure it wasn't a Panama," Wheeler said.

Taken To Hotel

The Wheelers were married. His parents live in Barranquilla, Colombia, where the plane made a stop. Along with the rest of the passengers, they were taken to a downtown Havana hotel by bus. The other U.S. citizens on the flight were Mr. and Mrs. Victor Estrada, Chicago.

The passengers said they never saw the armed men, but Enrique Mendez, a Bogota doctor, and his wife said they were sitting near the crew's quarters and knew something unusual was going on. The flight from Barranquilla to Havana took about 4 1/2 hours.

In Miami, Maj. Armando Fleites, leader of an anti-Castro military group, the Second Front of Escambray, said four of the captured exiles paraded in Havana yesterday were members of his group. He identified them as Pablo Garcia Rodriguez, Alberto Lauerica Diaz, Francisco Avila Ancoy and Jose Roy Rodriguez.

The four said on Havana radio last night that another member of their band, Placio Hernandez, was wounded when they were captured July 18 and was in a Cuban hospital.

One alleged CIA agent on display was identified as Vicente P. Gonzalez Migoyo, captured Saturday in Matanzas province. The other was identified as Jose Rabal Nunez, a former Cuban land reform official who defected in 1962. He was reported captured Sept. 4, 1963. Gonzalez said he was paid \$650 a month, plus expenses, as a CIA agent.

Recording Played

Cuban officials played a tape recording from a man they identified as CIA agent Tony Cuesta captured in May 1968.

Cuban authorities said two of the men betrayed their comrades to Cuban authorities, but it did not identify the two. Fleites said the Second Front of Escambray group was on a mission to kill Castro as part of a campaign of "irregular warfare" to topple Cuba's Communist government.

Cuban officials said the four Second Front men were captured near Honda bay in Pinar del Rio Province after going ashore from an "armed mother ship." They displayed arms and explosives they said the four had carried for sabotage and terrorism.

The four said their objectives were to organize peasants against the government, sabotage sugar mills and power facilities and assassinate Cuban leaders. They said they were told that 90 per cent of the Cuban people opposed the government. One, Garcia, denied that killing Castro was part of the mission. Lauerica and Avila said it was.

Roy said he was paid \$200 for the mission and told a long story of CIA recruitment and training in "security houses" in Miami.

He described trying to make similar secret missions to Cuba before but said the men had been threatened and had not been able to do so.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Leader of Anti-Castro Group

Maj. Armando Fleites said in Miami yesterday that four of the men charged in a plot to kill Fidel Castro are members of his militant exile group.

Uruguayan Senator Rodney Arismendi said he felt sure that OLAS would vote to condemn the United States for the exiles' action, and about 600 OLAS delegates, special guests and leftist observers at the press conference roared their approval.

Call From Pilot

The Colombian government said the DC-4 plane, flying from Bogota to the Colombian islands of San Andres and Providencia in the Caribbean, carried 71 passengers and four crew members. It said the pilot, Rafael Madero, telephoned from Havana to report that a group of pro-Castroites had forced him to fly there.

Havana radio said the plane had 78 passengers and four crewmen and that the armed men who took it over were four Colombians and an Ecuadorian. It said the hijackers asked to remain in Cuba and that the government was considering the request. There was speculation the hijackers wanted to pay a dramatic visit to the OLAS meeting.

One passenger, U.S. Army Capt. Harris Wheeler, who was honeymooning with his wife, Helga, Modesto, Calif., said the

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CASTRO BACKERS HIJACK AIRLINER, TAKE IT TO CUBA

Six Held in Havana Accused of Plot to Kill Premier

HAVANA, Aug. 7 (AP)—Five partisans of Fidel Castro hijacked a Colombian airliner with more than 70 persons aboard and took the ship to Havana yesterday. Meanwhile, the Cuban government displayed six captured invaders from Florida whom it accused of plotting to kill Castro.

The Cuban government said the plane, whose passengers included four United States citizens, was free to resume its flight today. All the passengers were reported safe.

The six captive Cuban exiles, paraded at a four-hour press conference, all said they were recruited and trained in Florida by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Poisoned Bullets

Two said they carried poisoned bullets intended for Prime Minister Castro. Two others said they were CIA agents. Cuban authorities declined to say whether the captives would be shot.

Guests at the press conference included delegates to the meeting of the Organization of Latin American Solidarity, a gathering of revolutionaries from 27 nations. Cuba apparently intended to use the captives to offset Venezuelan charges that Cuba landed guerrillas near Caracas in 1961.

Captured Cuban Exiles Tell of Plot to Kill Castro

By Associated Press Staff
HAVANA—Two captured Cuban exiles told a news conference today they had bullets tipped with poisonous 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 two hours. All six said they were recruited and trained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in Florida.

POISON BULLETS

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.

The carefully staged admissions were made before delegates to the Havana conference of revolutionaries from 21 Latin American countries and visiting United States newsmen. The performance obviously added spice to the meetings of the Latin American Organization of Solidarity-OLAS.

It also apparently was aimed at offsetting Washington charges that Cuban backed guerrillas near Caracas, Venezuela, in May.

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

Under questioning by three Cuban army officers, two of the exiles said they were agents of the CIA. In addition, four men captured July 18 were charged with the arms and explosives the Cubans said they carried for terror and sabotage.

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Captured Exiles Admit Castro Plot

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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 Gonzalez Manzano, was captured in Cuba two years ago after infiltrating on a similar mission. He was succeeded as commander in Miami by Armando Fleites.

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

He said four 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 conference later in the week.

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.

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, Alberto Lascaris Diaz, Francisco Avila Acary and Pablo Garcia Roqueta. They said they were members of the Second Front.

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

The other alleged CIA agent was identified as Jose Rafael Nunez, a Cuban government defector, reported captured Sept. 4, 1958.

All except Rabel were dressed in what Cuban authorities described as "counter-revolutionary uniforms." Rabel wore civilian clothes.

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.

KILLED Munitio Explor

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Six Cubans Face Piracy Charge for Seizing Vessel Out of Miami

CHICAGO (AP) — Six Cubans accused of piracy in the seizure of a freighter off Miami Beach surrendered to federal officials Thursday and were held for removal to Florida.

The exiles, all Chicago residents, were indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Miami.

The indictment accused them of planning to take the freighter Transporter "to a point near Cuba and use it as their own." The men, the indictments said, took the ship June 11 "with open force and placed the 31 crew members and 7 passengers in fear of physical harm."

Those who surrendered to

the FBI are Modesto Carlos Garcia Mendez; Huberto Pares Montes de Oca; Romiro de la Fe Perez, Manuel Alvarado, Amando Betancourt, mella de Eusebia and Sergio Freyo y de Bedia.

They were taken before U.S. Commissioner Bruno E. Nowogrodski who set bond at \$2,500 each. He ordered them held to the U.S. district court for removal to the southern federal district of Florida.

The ship was bound for Guatemala. Moments after the freighter left Miami, six stowaways were on board, apparently waiting for someone, or another ship. They left hurriedly in a lifeboat and escaped ashore.

Bomb Rips Office of Cuban Exiles

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — A time bomb, blamed on "Castro terrorism," today ripped apart the office of a Cuban unity group that urged exiles to drop plans for a general strike. But the massive walkout was launched, with leaders claiming they had killed 20,000 workers in 800 businesses.

The work stoppage was called to protest the U.S. detention of Felipe Rivero, one of the most aggressive anti-Castro leaders in the United States.

Arrested May 12, Rivero has been on a six-day hunger strike and faces a deportation hearing next Monday.

No one was injured in the blast at the headquarters of Cuban Exile Representation

(RECE); a group formed in 1964 after a worldwide referendum by exiles to choose an organization to speak for them.

The FBI began an investigation of the bombing, checking reports from witnesses who said they saw four men, apparently Cubans, speed away from the office building in a white car shortly before the explosion.

Anti-Castro HQ Bombed in Miami

By BAL HENDRIX
 Scripps-Howard staff writer

MIAMI, May 24 — Police were on the alert here today in the wake of a dynamite blast that damaged the office of an anti-Castro organization and a work stoppage by thousands of Cuban exiles.

The incident capped a week of unrest among some Cuban exiles who are protesting the threatened U.S. deportation of a militant anti-Castro leader.

Some officials fear the disturbance yesterday may have hurt greater Miami's chances of now leading the Democratic or Republican presidential convention next year. The Miami Beach auditorium has been considered a possible choice for one of the two.

He has been on a hunger strike for more than a week and Monday night was transferred from the jail cell to a hospital. The U.S. Immigration Service has scheduled a deportation hearing for him next Monday.

Star 5/23/67