

Group Flown To Air Base Near Miami

One Not Released, Three Others Go To South America

MIAMI, Fla., April 22 (AP)—Twenty-one Americans, most of them sentenced to Cuban prisons on counter-revolutionary charges, were freed today by Prime Minister Fidel Castro. They flew to Florida in a Red Cross-chartered plane.

Not all the Americans known to be held in Cuba came back. Mrs. Rafael Del Pino, wife of one of the men expected to return, broke into tears when the last man left the plane at Homestead Air Force Base south of here.

"I got a letter from Mr. Donovan saying my husband was certain to be on the list," she sobbed.

Mr. Del Pino, a Cuban native but a naturalized United States citizen, was shot down while attempting to land a light plane near Havana in July, 1960. The Cuban government charged that he was trying to fly anti-Castro Cubans off the island.

Donovan Also Returns

James B. Donovan, New York attorney who negotiated with Premier Castro for release of the Americans, returned with them completing what he said would be his last mercy mission to the Communist-dominated island.

"What happened? What happened?" Mrs. Del Pino cried.

Mr. Donovan said Mr. Del Pino had not been released. He said three other Americans elected to fly to South America rather than return to the United States, but he declined to identify them. And he expressed hope for the early release of Cuban-born American citizens still held.

"I discussed this with Castro and am hopeful that things soon will be straightened out," Mr. Donovan said. "In addition, several hundred Cuban political prisoners may be freed before

One Rushed to Hospital

Mrs. Del Pino held in her arms a 2-year-old daughter, Mele, who has never seen her father. She last saw her husband July 25, 1959, while she was still in Cuba. The couple also has a 12-year-old son, Rafael, jr.

The moment the plane landed, Richard Alley Pecoraro, See PRISONERS, Page A-6

List of Men Released By Castro

MIAMI, Fla., April 22 (AP)—Following is a list of the men who arrived at Homestead Air Force Base today after liberation from Cuban prisons:

1. Gilberto Rodriguez, Miami.
2. Hector Varona, North Miami.
3. Juan Pedro Koop, Miami Beach.
4. Vidal G. Morales, Miami Beach.
5. Eustace H. Vanbrunt, Baltimore.
6. Daniel L. Carswell, East Chester, N. Y.
7. Richard Allen Pecoraro, Staten Island, N. Y.
8. Donald J. Greene, Gastonia, N. C.
9. Alfred Eugene Gibson, Mount Gilliad, N. C.
10. Lemar Dezaldo, Miami.
11. Leslie A. Bradley, Robbinsdale, Minn.
12. Joaquin Angel Ossario, Miami.
13. Austin F. Young, Miami.
14. Edmund K. Stransky, New York.
15. Leonard L. Schmidt, Chicago.
16. Fernandez G. Sanchez, Miami.
17. John A. Gentile, Cleveland.
18. Dario F. Prohias, Miami.
19. Thomas L. Baker, Dothan, Ala.
20. James D. Beane, Franklinville, N. C.
21. George B. Beck jr., Norton, Mass.

PRISONERS

Released Americans In Good Condition

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30, of Staten Island, N. Y., was taken off and rushed by ambulance to a hospital. Most of the men appeared to be in good condition, however.

Another who waited in vain was Leopold Fuentes, 53, who fled Cuba 18 months ago and reached Florida in a small boat.

He had seen the name of his son, Pedro Fuentes Cid, 24, in a morning newspaper and was "very happy" in the belief that he would be released from a 30-year prison term.

"But they say he's not coming now," the father said, sadly.

Enso Bighinatti, Red Cross representative who went to Cuba and returned on today's flight, said he did not know the reason why six of the 27 Americans known to be in Cuban prisons did not return. Austin F. Young, jr., former United States Army colonel convicted of attempting to form an anti-Castro army in the hills of Pinar Del Rio Province, said he had been in prison six days short of four years when he was freed.

"I feel very good," said the lean, blond adventurer. "I have been waiting for this a long time."

Mr. Young said he first was sentenced to death but the sentence was reduced to 30 years.

Donald Joe Greene of Gastonia, N. C., declared that "words can't express my feelings on being back among friendly people." He said his weight had dropped from 240 to 165 pounds during his imprisonment.

Like the others, Mr. Greene declined comment on treatment received in Cuban prisons, but he said the Americans often were singled out "for some real nice little duties."

Mr. Greene also was sentenced to death and then had his sentence commuted to 30

years. He said he suffered from mumps and an ear infection while in prison but was told no drugs were available.

John Robert Gentile, 31, of Cleveland, said he received poor food and harsh treatment in Isle of Pines. There were two hunger strikes, he related, and the last one "ended in some people being shot."

"People were hit on the head and some were stabbed with bayonets," he said.

Treatment changed considerably for the better last December when Mr. Donovan began his negotiations, Mr. Gentile added.

All the prisoners looked pale and thin. Most of them wore Cuban-style white shirts, slacks and crepe sole shoes.

The plane had flown to Havana early this morning, carrying 11,500 pounds of baby food—part of the \$53 million in foods and medicines that Mr. Donovan traded Premier Castro for the 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners. The plane was chartered from Pan American Airways.

Most of the Americans were sentenced on charges of counter-revolutionary activities. Seventeen of them are expected to have been held in a compound on the Isle of Pines.

The Red Cross said that with the cargo delivered today's flight and the freighter American Star now unloading in Havana harbor, \$38 million in goods will have been delivered to Premier Castro.

Mr. Donovan said yesterday when he announced the Castro government's decision to release the Americans that was "an action of clemency on the part of the Cuban government."

"It does not involve further pledges of drugs, medicines or baby food to the Cuban people," he said.