

Miami's Nest of Intrigue Was Hatching Place for

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MIAMI, June 27 — At 3:30 yesterday afternoon, in Juan-
tío's Centro Vasco, a Basque
restaurant on Miami's Eighth
Street South West, cluster of
dark, mysterious-looking men
huddled over syrup y Cuban
coffee and brandy.

Gesturing with hand-rolled
cigars, the luncheon dawdlers
whispered intensely to one an-
other.

"They are probably talking
about forming a combine to
play the daily double tonight,"
said a long-time Miami resi-
dent who also was lurching
late. "But, then again, maybe
they are planning a coup d'état
in Cuba."

Political plots have abounded
in Miami for 12 years. Most of
them never get beyond the
talking stage and are aimed at
overthrowing the governments
of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican
Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela
and various other South Ameri-
can countries.

Smuggling Plots

There are also plots involv-
ing cocaine and heroin or arms
smuggling.

Miami contains a large but
declining concentration of
spies, ex-spies, gangsters, sol-
diers of fortune and refugee
dictators, and they have en-

hanced the aura of intri-
gue that prompted The Miami
Herald to refer to the city as
the Casablanca of the Carib-
bean.

About two months ago, a
pipe-smoking man in a rain-
coat, whose identity is no pub-
licly known, flew into Miami
and after a series of secret in-
terviews put together a team
of seven men from the dark
Miami bars and restaurants, re-
portedly to go to New York
in May and stage demonstra-
tions.

Four members of this team
and one man from the Wash-
ington area were arrested 10
days ago and accused of break-
ing into the headquarters of the
Democratic National Com-
mittee in Washington.

The three other members of
the original team were in
Miami at the time of the ar-
rests.

Trouble Foreseen

After the arrests, one of the
original team members told a
friend that he had dropped out
of the group because the team
had appeared to be headed for
trouble.

This man, who is believed to
have left the country last
week, said that the man in
the raincoat, whom he knew
by a code name, had hired the
team to go to New York but

that the group had ended up
in Washington confronting
demonstrators outside the
Capitol while the body of J.
Edgar Hoover lay in state.

The men from Miami who
led the counter-demonstration
were paid \$100 each. This
made the men believe that
they were working for the
Central Intelligence Agency,
because to the Miami Cuban
colony, anyone who hands out
\$100 bills is a C.I.A. agent.

Influence Assumed

They believed that the man
in the raincoat offered more
than money—they assumed he
also offered influence. The
team, composed of men dedi-
cated to overthrowing Premier
Castro, hope to use this influ-
ence to gain an entree with
"powerful Government offi-
cials."

Bernard L. Barker, the leader
of the team, who is also a
sometime employe of the
C.I.A., especially wanted re-
cognition because he wanted to
persuade Government officials
to allow Cuban refugees in
Spain to come to the United
States.

The others, Frank Sturgis—
originally known as Frank Fi-
orini—Eugenio R. Martinez and
Virgilio Gonzalez, also had
other reasons.

Mr. Sturgis, a gun runner, a

pilot, a one-time adviser to Mr.
Castro, a friend of the Ameri-
can columnist Jack Anderson,
another sometime employe of
the C.I.A., may have joined
the team because he had been
involved in various kinds of
intrigue for 15 years.

Mr. Martinez, with training
in law and medicine in Cuba,
may have gone because he
worked for Mr. Barker, osten-
sibly as a real estate salesman.
Mr. Martinez is reported to
have infiltrated Cuba 30 or 40
times in the last few years for
the C.I.A. A companion de-
scribed Mr. Martinez as a man
with "real guts."

Mr. Gonzalez's motive is an
enigma. He is a quiet, un-
assuming man, who has lived
in Miami for 20 years prac-
ticing his trade as a safe me-
chanic and locksmith.

Center Plans Sought

Several months before Mr.
Barker became involved with
the team, he had sought to get
a copy of the architectural
drawings of the Miami Beach
Convention Center, where the
Democratic National Conven-
tion is to be held, from a
Miami architect, Leonard Glas-
ser, according to Mr. Glasser.
When this proved to be im-
possible, Mr. Barker tried to
get a copy of the convention
center's air-conditioning plans.

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Democratic Raid

After the arrests in Wash-
ington, the police said that the
team had diagrams of two ball-
rooms of the Doral Hotel in
Miami Beach, where Senator
George McGovern plans to hold
staff meetings and news con-
ferences during the convention.

The Miami team, minus three
of its original members, flew
to Washington for a second
time in the last week of May.
While the team was in Wash-
ington on this visit, staying in
the Watergate Hotel, someone
broke into the Democratic head-
quarters.

The team was on its third

trip to Washington when ar-
rested.

Mr. Baker and his friends
were well financed.

After the first visit to Miami
of the man in the raincoat,
on April 24, \$89,000 was de-
posited to Mr. Barker's account
at the Republic National Bank
of Miami. The checks for this
amount were written on an ac-
count in a bank in Mexico City.

After the checks cleared May
8, Mr. Barker withdrew the
\$89,000 from the bank, \$10,000
of it in \$100 bills.

This was immediately after
the team returned from its
shouting match with demon-
strators outside the Capitol in
Washington.