

5 charged with bugging Democratic committee

LA Times-Washington Post Service
WASHINGTON — Five men, one a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency and three others natives of Cuba, were arrested Saturday in what authorities described as an elaborate plot to bug the office of the Democratic National Committee here.

The men, all of them wearing rubber surgical gloves, were surprised at Emporium at 2:30 a.m. EDT by three plainclothes officers of the Metropolitan Police Department's tactical squad.

They were captured inside a small fifth floor office at the Spanish Watergate Hotel. The Democratic National Committee occupies the entire sixth floor.

Police said the men had with them at least two electronic devices capable of picking up and transmitting oral and telephone conversations. In addition, police found lockpicks and door jammers, almost \$2,700 in cash, most of it in \$100 bills with the serial numbers in sequence.

The men also had with them one walkie-talkie, a short wave receiver, an roll of unexposed film and two 35 millimeter cameras.

There was no immediate indication as to why the five suspects would want to bug the Democratic National Committee offices, or whether they were working for any other individuals or organizations.

In court Saturday one suspect did say the men were "anti-Communists," and the others nodded agreement.

The operation was described in court by Prosecutor Earl J. Silbert as "professional and clandestine."

One of the suspects is a locksmith by trade. Many of the burglary tools found at the Democratic National Committee offices appeared to be packaged in what police said were burglary kits.

A spokesman for the Democratic National Committee said records kept in the offices are "not of a sensitive variety," although he added there are "financial records and other secret information."

Police said two ceiling panels in the office of Democratic party, had been removed.

Her office is adjacent to the office of Democratic National Chairman Lawrence J. O'Brien, P-4 (Dem) & 814; it would have been possible to check on Silbert's story that

side a bugging device through the panels in that office to a place above the ceiling panels in O'Brien's office.

The five men were identified as:

— Edward Martin of New York City and perhaps the Washington metropolitan area. In court Saturday, Martin said he retired from the Central Intelligence Agency two years ago. He said he is presently employed as a security consultant.

— Frank Sturgis of Miami. Prosecutors said that an FBI check on Sturgis showed that he had served in the Cuban military army intelligence in 1958, recently traveled to Honduras in Central America and presently is the agent for a Havana salvage agency. He has a home and family in Miami. Sturgis also was once charged with a gun violation in Miami, according to FBI records.

— Eusebio R. Martinez of Miami. Prosecutors said that Martinez violated the migration laws in 1958 by flying to a private plane to Cuba. He is a licensed real estate agent and a notary public in Florida.

— Virgilio R. Gonzalez of Miami. Douglas County, one of the attorneys for the five men, told a reporter that shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday he received a call from Barrer's wife. She said that her husband told her to call

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Miami. In Miami Saturday his wife told a Washington Post reporter that her husband works as a locksmith at the Missing Link Key Shop. Harry Colloff, the shop owner, said that Gonzalez was scheduled to work Saturday but didn't show up.

— Bernard J. Barber of Miami. Douglas County, one of the attorneys for the five men, told a reporter that shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday he received a call from Barrer's wife. She said that her husband told her to call

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