

# Miami Exiles on Bugging Try

By Peter Jay  
and Kirk Scharfenberg  
Washington Post Staff Writers

MIAMI, June 22—For Miami's exile community, has Saturday's unsuccessful effort to bug the Washington offices of the Democratic National Committee seemed to have everything: conspiracy, Cuban agents and the CIA.

It had all the elements of what one intelligence veteran called "this subsurface business"—CIA involvement with Cuban affairs—and interest was heightened by vague reports of Cuban-led disruptions of this summer's two national political conventions across the bay at Miami Beach.

The local rumor mills are still turning out new theories about the bugging, while leaders of militant anti-Castro groups continue to seek to dissociate themselves from Bernard L. Barker, Virgilio Gonzales and Eugenio R. Martinez—the three Cubans among the five men arrested in the Dem-

ocrats' Watergate headquarters.

Two main theories about the bugging attempt seem to be emerging here, neither of them based on anything more than the reputations of the men involved, a Latin penchant for conspiracies and a bit of guesswork.

One is that the three—along with their American companions, former Central Intelligence Agency man James W. McCord Jr. and Frank A. Sturgis—were free-lance adventurers who hoped to sell their stolen intelligence to the highest bidder.

Not surprisingly, the other theory is that the five were sent on their mission by high-ranking Republicans.

"Isn't it too bad they got caught—it's so embarrassing," a Cuban member of the American Club—a business organization here with a substantial and conservative Latin mem-

bership—told a friend the other day.

Diego Medina, a physician who heads Alpha 66, one of Miami's main anti-Castro groups, subscribes to the theory that the Watergate suspects were free-lancers.

"It was so badly done, so amateurish," he said, sitting in his office beneath a map of the United States with scattered pins denoting Alpha 66 chapters in other cities. "If it had been ordered by the White House, it would have been done better."

Medina said he knew nothing of Ameritas, a Miami organization to which Washington police said the Watergate Five belonged, or of Howard E. Hunt Jr., a novelist, former White House consultant and longtime CIA operative whose name was found in the suspects' notebooks, and who has since dropped from sight. (Ameritas was identified yesterday as a corporation promoting and developing real es-

tate projects for a Panamanian company.)

He said he knew Gonzales and Martinez slightly by reputation, but knew nothing of Barker. Tomas Cruz, the head of another, larger anti-Castro group, also denied knowing Barker—although by the account of Cuban journalists and other sources, Barker was well known throughout the anti-Castro movement here for his role in helping run the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Ever since the Bay of Pigs, Cubans in Miami have tended to see CIA involvement everywhere, observers of the community here say. "The CIA's been out of business here for at least five years," one knowledgeable Cuban source said, "but no one will believe that."

Here are two accounts: "Obviously it's a CIA job," said one Cuban broadcast journalist. "Look at those \$100 (bills) the police found on those five guys. I remember when CIA front groups used

to buy time on our station and they always paid in consecutively numbered \$100 bills. One group's bills would follow another's. See?"

"A friend of mine was just paid \$700 to disrupt the Democratic Convention," another source said. "The man who paid it to him said he worked for the CIA. My friend took the money and went to Puerto Rico."

On such accounts are local legends built.

Only a fraction of the Miami area's 300,000 Spanish-speaking residents—more than two-thirds of whom are Cuban and who make up a quarter of Dade County's population—are active in organized anti-Castro activity, but anti-communism is widely professed.

Many of this area's 28 Spanish-language weekly newspapers have called for counter-demonstrations against youthful protesters expected at the national political conventions. According to one Cuban journalist, one such paper said the protesters are "dirty hippies" who should be sent packing.

By and large, the Cuban community is relatively prosperous—with the median household income over \$8,000 a year, according to census figures, contrasted with under \$6,000 for black families here and \$9,200 for the area as a whole.

According to some observers of the Cuban scene here, the paramount political concerns among exiles are domestic—crime and wages—rather than foreign questions such as American policy toward Cuba and the overthrow of Castro that now appears unlikely.