

Probe Antiwar Vet 'Plot' To Kill GOP Delegates

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By a Staff Correspondent

MIAMI BEACH — The Tallahassee grand jury investigation involving the Vietnam Veterans Against the War centers around an alleged plot to bomb and kill delegates to next month's Republican National Convention, it was reported today.

The Atlanta Constitution said federal investigators have uncovered accounts of an allegedly elaborate plan by antiwar veterans to blow up the Miami Beach causeway and fight their way into Convention Hall.

The VVAW demonstrators would then attempt to kill or injure GOP delegates by tossing homemade anti-personnel bombs into crowded areas, according to these accounts.

Vets Charge 'Fantasy'

VVAW officials labeled the charges "fantasy" and said they planned no violence.

The grand jury in Tallahassee has been looking into the VVAW's activities all week, but there had been no reports until today of exactly what it was investigating.

A resolution was passed at the Democratic National Convention last night condemning the Tallahassee proceedings as an attempt by the Nixon Administration to stifle dissent.

A Justice Dept. spokesman in Washington would say

only that the investigation centered on alleged disruption plans by the VVAW and the purchase by VVAW members of some "pretty bizarre and destructive weapons."

One source said that one of the weapons allegedly involved is a powerful explosive charge, coated with BBs, which would detonate and shatter the BBs like shrapnel.

No indictments have been returned by the grand jury, but four VVAW members were sentenced to up to 18 months in jail yesterday on contempt charges for refusing to testify in the investigation.

VVAW spokesmen here charged that the entire investigation was politically-motivated.

"The American people know what kind of organization we are and what we do," said Barry Remo, the VVAW's national coordinator. "All of our things have been up front. This [the alleged plans for violence] just isn't our thing."

Gus Reichbach, a Yippie attorney who has been working with the VVAW, said: "They [the Nixon Administration] must believe that the bigger and the more fantastic the conspiracy fantasy they create, the easier it is to discredit whatever organization they want."

Reichbach called the investigation "even worse than Harrisburg," a reference to the Justice Dept.'s attempt to convict the Rev. Philip Berrigan and others on bomb-kidnap charges.

John Levine, a Philadelphia attorney representing the VVAW, said that 23 VVAW members from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama had been subpoenaed to testify before the Tallahassee grand jury.

He and other attorneys for the group expressed "absolute outrage" at the contempt sentences and said they would appeal them to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Levine said that VVAW members were refusing to testify because they felt the investigation was merely a ploy to keep their attention away from the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach this week.

The grand jury proceedings have been conducted under tight secrecy, with federal officials issuing only a brief statement at the beginning which said they concerned "a serious matter involving violations of the criminal laws of the U. S."

The investigation is being handled by the Justice Dept.'s Internal Security Division, which enforces statutes relating to subversive organizations, civil disorders, firearms and explosives laws.