

N.O. States-Item

SF Chronicle

Batista Aide Guilty in Haiti Invasion Plot

MIAMI (AP)—A former aide to Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and five companions were convicted in federal court yesterday of conspiring to invade Haiti and overthrow its president.

The jury of 11 men and one woman also returned a guilty verdict against the six on a charge of attempting to export war munitions to a foreign country.

The charges stemmed from a Jan. 2 raid on a hideout in the Florida Keys by federal agents. The raiders arrested 72 members of a well-armed band.

The defendants included Rolando Masferrer, one-time aide to Batista, and the Rev. Jean Baptiste Georges, an exiled Haitian priest.

U.S. Dist. Judge Ted Cabot ordered a presentence investigation. The six face maximum total fines of \$35,000 each and imprisonment of up to seven years.

Haiti Invasion Plotters Guilty

Miami

Three Cubans, two Haitians and an American soldier of fortune were convicted by a Federal court jury yesterday of conspiring to invade Haiti last January, violating United States neutrality laws.

They were also convicted of trying to export arms and ammunition in support of a projected landing against the "black republic" of Haitian president-for-life Francois (Pappa Doc) Duvalier.

Sentencing was deferred until a background investigation of the six men is finished. The maximum sen-

tence is seven years and \$35,000 fine on each count.

The six men are former Senaotr Rolando Masferrer of Cuba, who used to head a private army in that country during the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship; father Jean Baptiste Georges, a Catholic priest and Duvalier's former education minister in Haiti; Martin Francis Xavier Casey, an American soldier of fortune; former Haitian army Colonel Rene J. Leon, and two Cuban exiles, Antonio Leon Rojas, a cousin of Masferrer, and Julio Aton Constanzo Palu.

United Press