

9 CUBAN REFUGEES HELD IN BOMBINGS

Police Say They Plotted Fall of Castro Through Terror

By MORRIS KAPLAN

Nine Cuban exiles, described as members of a military organization plotting the overthrow of Premier Fidel Castro through assassination and terror, were seized by the police yesterday in predawn raids and charged with a series of bombings here of offices of nations that trade with Cuba.

Elements of the plot outlined by Chief Assistant District Attorney Alfred J. Scotti included specifically the assassination of the Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, the killing of Cuban officials in other countries, the theft of munitions from a Brooklyn armory and firebombing of ships.

According to Mr. Scotti, the series of bombings of offices here—centered on tourist offices—was the first phase in the program of the military organization, called "Cuban Power."

In addition to being charged with the bombings here and accused of plotting murder and planning an invasion of their

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homeland, the men were also accused under five indictments handed up by a Manhattan grand jury of arson, reckless endangerment, criminal mischief and the illegal possession of weapons and explosives.

Arms Reported Seized

Detectives with search warrants, acting in conjunction with the arrests, searched the homes of the defendants "and other suspects" and reportedly uncovered a cache of guns—some equipped with silencers—as well as loaded pistols and Army uniforms. Mr. Scotti would not discuss details of the confiscations.

Anti-Castro exiles under the banner of Cuban power have been led by Dr. Orlando Bosch of Miami, a 41-year-old pediatrician who was arrested by Federal authorities on June 11

in Orlando, Fla., on charges of possessing 18 aerial bombs. Dr. Bosch and two others were charged later with shelling a Polish freighter in Miami harbor.

There have been reports of 40 separate bombings in Miami and similar incidents in Los Angeles, Chicago and Elizabeth, N.J. Authorities here declined to name any of the nine men arrested yesterday as "leader" of the Cuban exiles in the New York area.

The series of bombings in New York, described by Mr. Scotti as the first phase in the organization's program, began on April 22, with explosions at the Mexican Consulate at 8 East 43d Street and at the Spanish Tourist Office at 589 Fifth Avenue.

According to Mr. Scotti, the second phase—the assassination of Cuban officials in foreign countries—was to have been initiated "shortly."

The third phase, he said, was the bombing and destruction of foreign ships used in the Cuban trade.

Mr. Scotti, seated alongside Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary, Chief Inspector Sanford E. Garelik, Chief of Detectives Frederick Lussen and Assistant District Attorney Joseph A. Phillips, paid special tribute to the "splendid performance" of those who "uncovered the plot."

He said evidence developed in the investigation had resulted from the "skill, courage and great personal risk" of policemen and investigators for the District Attorney working under "unusually dangerous" conditions. But he declined to discuss the possible role of undercover agents.

Each of the nine suspects were accused specifically of participating in six of 15 recent bombings here, and Mr. Scotti said that five of the accused had planned to invade the 106th Infantry Armory at Bedford, and Atlantic Avenues in Brooklyn.

Plot to Steal Arms

According to Mr. Scotti, the participants, posing as United States Army officers, plotted to kill the guard if he resisted, then fill suitcases with munitions and take them to a farm in New Jersey for storage. He refused to disclose the location of the farm and did not explain why the raid was not attempted.

On Aug. 13, however, an arsenal of explosives and automatic weapons was seized by Federal and state agents in a raid on a farm near Johnsonburg, N. J., 13 miles east of the Delaware Water Gap.

An indictment charged that one defendant, Carlos Fernandez, 24 years old, a clerk and part-time student of 348 East 89th Street, had agreed to enter the Cuban Mission at 6 East 67th Street armed with a pistol equipped with a silencer. There he was to have shot and killed all employes and officers and then removed records "and other property," the indictment said.

Two other defendants, Oscar L. Acevedo, 38, and Gabriel Abay, 49, of 286 Fort Washington Avenue, were members of the Bay of Pigs Brigade 2506, which invaded Cuba in 1961. At a rally in Florida afterward, President John F. Kennedy told survivors that the flag of a free Cuba would one day fly again on the island.

Mr. Acevedo, who lives at 373 42d Street, Brooklyn, is an accountant. It was learned that he had served in the United States Army for about four years and was a paratrooper. He was said to be a captain in the Army Reserve.

Of the nine suspects, the only American citizen is Guillermo Miguel, 38, a gas station attendant, of 561 West 143d Street. All nine are natives of Cuba.

Also arrested were: Arturo Rodriguez Vives, 25, a writer, of 1317 University Avenue, the Bronx. Jose Rodone, 55, a mechanic, of 200 West 70th Street. Ivan Acosta, 24, a student, of 704 West 180th Street. Ramiro Cortez, 18, a mechanic, of 567 West 183d Street. Edgar Rivas, 21, a mechanic, also of 567 West 183d Street.

In an affidavit submitted before State Supreme Court Justice Mitchell D. Schweitzer to obtain the search warrant, the District Attorney's office stated that a man in charge of sabotage intended to form independent six-man units with code

names to avoid detection, according to Mr. Scotti. He said the investigation was continuing.

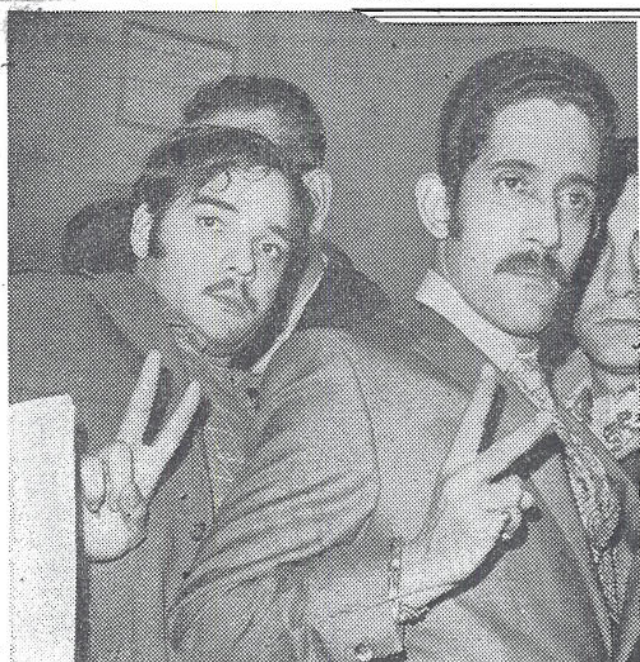
When the suspects were arraigned before Justice Schweitzer following their arrests, Mr. Fernandez was held in \$25,000 bail on charges of conspiring to commit murder and burglary. Mr. Miguel's bail was set at \$20,000 and bail of \$15,000 each was fixed for Mr. Cortez and Mr. Rivas. The others were held in \$7,500 bail each.

Justice Schweitzer set Nov. 7 for pleading.

The bombings listed in the indictment were as follows: May 30, at the Spanish Tour-

ist Bureau for the second time; July 4 at the Canadian Tourist Bureau at 680 Fifth Avenue; July 7, at the Japanese National Tourist Office at 11 West 50th Street; July 10, at a four story converted brownstone building at 4 East 67th Street adjacent to the Cuban Mission to the United Nations; July 15 at the French Tourist Office at 610 Fifth Avenue, and on Aug. 3, at the Bank of Tokyo Trust Company at 310 Park Avenue.

Two tourists were slightly injured, but property damage ran high in several instances, notably at the Tokyo bank, where damage was estimated at \$40,000.



Associated Press

HELD ON BOMBINGS: Cuban exiles identified as Ivan Acosta, left, and Arturo Rodriguez Vives making victory sign after being arrested. They and seven other Cubans were charged with participation in the recent series of bombings of the offices of nations that trade with Cuba.