

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1969

2 Cubans Seized in Jersey in Montreal Bomb Plot

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

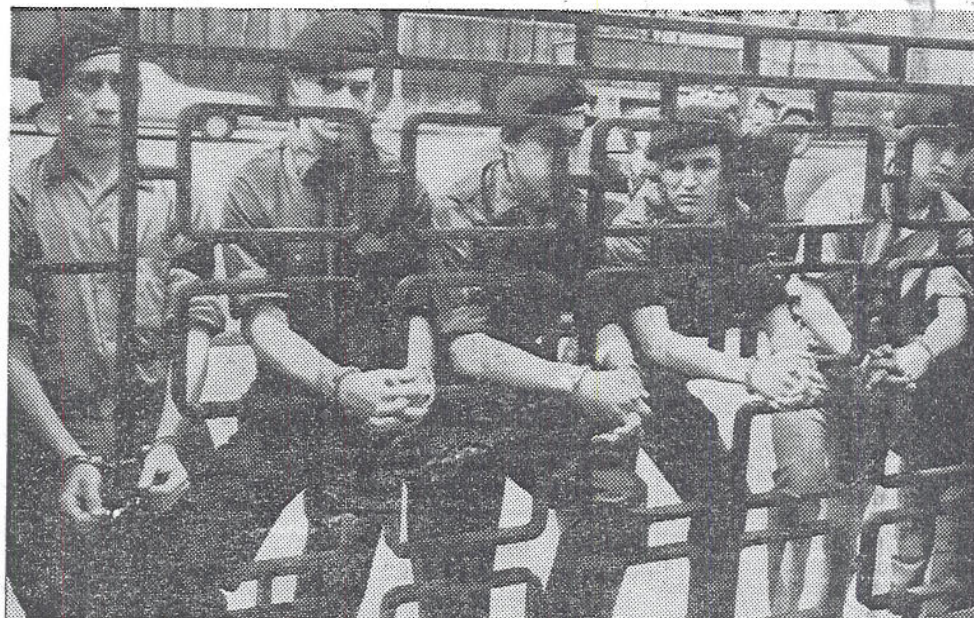
Two members of a Cuban nationalist group were arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New Jersey early yesterday for allegedly plotting to bomb several buildings and ships in Montreal.

The arrests led to a brief demonstration outside the United Nations when eight colleagues of the arrested men handcuffed themselves to the wrought-iron gate at the main entrance on First Avenue.

It took about two minutes for United Nations guards to cut the handcuff chains with large clippers and an equal amount of time for New York City police to send the Cubans on their way. There were no arrests among them.

"This is just to show how we are handcuffed by the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. in our fight against Communism," said a spokesman for the Cuban National Movement, a group of militant Cubans who oppose the regime of Premier Fidel Castro.

The two men taken into custody were Guillermo Novo



The New York Times (by Meyer Liebowitz)

Some of the Cubans at the U.N. gate yesterday before guards there cut their handcuffs

Three of the original eight men remained on charges, however. The last two soldiers freed obtained their release from the stockade exactly 60 days after their arrest. Yesterday, their release was granted the same day that the Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, ruled to prove that the government's authority to detain them for two years was not supported by the evidence. The appeals court said that the government had not shown that the two men were a danger to the community.

Sampol, 29 years old, of West New York, N. J., and Felipe Martinez y Blanca, 25, of Union City, N. J., who were arrested by F.B.I. agents at their homes.

Both men, who were born in Cuba but are now naturalized American citizens, were charged with conspiring to injure property of a foreign government, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison or a fine of \$5,000, or both.

The F.B.I. said the two had conspired with others to blow up the Montreal offices of the Cuban Consul, the Cuban Trade Commission and several steamships in Montreal harbor.

Canada and Mexico are the

only countries in the Western Hemisphere that have trade relations with Cuba.

The two men were arraigned in Newark before United States Commissioner Thomas W. Clohosey, who held Novo in \$50,000 bail and Martinez in \$25,000. Both were turned over to a United States marshal when they failed to post bail.

The bail was higher for Novo because he is on probation resulting from previous arrests.

In 1964 he was arrested on a charge of being among those who fired a bazooka shell at the United Nations building from across the East River. The shell landed in the river. The case later was dropped for lack of evidence.

Two years ago, Novo and his brother, Ignacio, who is the head of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, were arrested in Jersey City, charged with the illegal possession of explosives.

In an affidavit accompanying the complaint yesterday, Ernest J. Kirstein Jr., an F. B. I. agent assigned to Newark, said the bureau had learned of the alleged plot through a confidential informant.

The affidavit said the two men had discussed "with others" the desirability of "obtaining nationwide and worldwide publicity for the Cuban Nationalist Movement by blowing up property of the Republic of Cuba."