

Cuban terrorists jump bail

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On April 13, The Haymarket, a movement collective at 507 N. Hoover St., housing a radical bookstore, a large meeting hall, living quarters, and offices for the Committee on Latin American Solidarity and the National Lawyers Guild was completely destroyed by armed arsonists identified as "gusanos", Cuban counter-revolutionaries.

A caustic chemical was sprayed in the face of one of the victims at The Haymarket; he still suffers from severely damaged lungs.



On May 27, about a dozen armed men invaded the Socialist Workers Party election campaign headquarters at 1702 East 4th Street in mid-day, forced the four people in the building to lie face down and threatened, "You will die for Fidel."

They then poured gasoline through the building and set it afire. The headquarters was gutted by the flames.

On June 7, the Ashgrove, a folk-music coffee house at 8162 Melrose was attacked by three armed men who maced five employees, splashed kerosene through the building and set it on fire, gutting the building.

As the three Cuban terrorists attempted to flee in a red convertible the father of an Ashgrove waitress blocked them with his car and they were arrested by two passing policemen. An M-1 rifle and a .38 calibre pistol were found in the car.

The three terrorists, Mario (Jorge) Pelaez, 32; Reynaldo Castro, 25; and Reynaldo Gonzales, 18, did not attempt to deny the Ashgrove attack and reportedly boasted of the raid, seeing themselves as "anti-communist patriots."

Orestes L. Hernandez was arrested later and identified by a victim of the Haymarket attack. All four were charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, burglary,

tion of the Los Angeles Cuban exile community was revealed in the July issued of LA ACTUALIDAD POLITICA (The Political Actuality), A "Cuban Anticommunist Magazine" edited by Salvador Rodriguez Santana.

Pelaez, Castro and Gonzales are pictured on the front page and called "Cuban patriots," and an article on "Commando Actions" gave a report headed "The Los Angeles Successes."

The article described the attack on the Ashgrove, which was falsely described as the headquarters of

not in favor of acts which violated the laws of this country.

"He was refuted by our editor," the article said, "who said they were acts to combat communism."

It was agreed at the meeting that five members from each organization present would meet the next day and go from store to store to raise the bail money. Bail was raised with the money collected and the ownership title of a garage owned by one of the defendants, Mario Pelaez.

Pelaez, Castro and Gonzales were released on bail June 12. On June 16 "Paquito" Riverol, 17, and Rene Alvarez, 23, owner of the red convertible in which the three Ashgrove terrorists were arrested.

On the following day Esteique Rodriquez and Leonel and Orestes Hernandez, 31-year-old twins, went to the police station to inquire about Riverol and Alvarez, were shown to victims of the attacks and released, along with Riverol and Alvarez.

Orestes Hernandez had been identified "by the hidden look of the communist witnesses," as the Cuban article put it, was arrested the following day, and released on \$6,000 bail.

"Orestes had arrived in Los Angeles from Miami a short time

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the "Social Workers Party," evidently referring to the Socialist Workers Party.

Leaders of the Cuban Youth of Los Angeles, according to the account, took the initiative in raising bail for the jailed Cubans. A meeting took place at the RECE headquarters where complaints were made about lack of support from the Los Angeles "Cuban Chamber of Commerce" and "CORPICUBA", a federation of markets.

Present at the meeting, in addition to Franklin Denis and Carlos Hurtado, who presided, were Esteban Fernandez, Andy A. Campillo, Alberto Barco, Santos M. Chirino and other members of Cuban Youth.

Others attending the meeting called to support the Cuban terrorists were Nestor Arangure of Alpha 66 (exiles calling for the invasion of revolutionary Cuba), Mariano Cedo, Plan Torriente; Luis Beato of Circulo Guiner; Olga Enterrius, of the Mariana Grajales Association; Abel Perez, coordinator of the Pro-Comicios Committee of California; Alvaro Fajardo, Los Angeles president of the 2506 Brigade; EVELSIO MOREJON, Venerable Master of the Masonic Lodge, members of the Mexican Youth of Los Angeles, and the editor of LA ACTUALIDAD POLITICA.

Ambrosio Reyes, according to the gusano magazine, made violent statements against COR-

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ago," according to LA ACTUALIDAD POLITICA, "and stated he had nothing to do with the events of the Ashgrove."

"All the ball," the article disclosed, "was paid by the bondsman Jorge Shapiro, who did not request much guarantee."

Denis and Campillo of the Cuban Youth of Los Angeles went to a union Chamber of Commerce office on June 14th to appeal for funds for the terrorists, leading to an emergency meeting of the chamber leadership and a "violent discussion."

Jose Rene Garcia, leader and Efraim Guerra favored allowing a collection speech while Carlos Zozula and others opposed it. After KWKW radio commentator Filberto Ribera "steadily condemned some businessmen for their negative attitude" a fund appeal was permitted and \$204.00 collected.

Under the sub-head "The Police Version," the article said that Gordon Alexander, manager of the (Ashgrove) declared that the suspects had entered the premises armed, and sprayed mace on the faces of the five occupants, forcing them to lie down behind a piece of furniture.

"The police declared that Ashgrove—which appears to be a center of night entertainment—is where the Angelino members of the (communist) "Social Worker Party" had their offices or center of gatherings."

(Representative of the Ashgrove and the Socialist Workers Party say they have no connection whatsoever with each other.)

The political motivation, and possibly the main target of the three arson attacks by the exile Cubans, is indicated by the description beneath a photo of the Ashgrove in LA ACTUALIDAD POLITICA:

"This was the communist den of the Social Worker Party (S.W.P.) located at 8162 W. Melrose Ave., which was destroyed on the inside by fire, an act of which three fellow Cubans are accused.

"It was disguised as a bar or cabaret named Ash Grove, but it was actually the center of activities of the 'Young Socialist Alliance,' the faction of young radical communists in the S.W.P., who are fanatics of the theories of Trotsky, and who advocate violent means for the destruction of the democratic system in this country. And here is the amazing thing: THEY ARE ANTI-MOSCOW, ANTI-Peking and PRO-CASTRO.

"Their activities consist of

showing films of Fidel and of Che, and carrying out proselytizing campaigns for the Bearded Tyrant, while mocking the pain of 60,000 exiles in this city. Their members also come from the Trotskyist faction of the 'Students for a Democratic Society,' with ramifications in 101 colleges and universities, 32 high schools, and five junior high schools.

"They were the main promoters of the disruptions in Chicago and the assault on the Pentagon in 1967. They are the leading agents of Fidel in the United States, and the most determined and dangerous enemies of the Cuban refugees.

"They formerly had their headquarters at 507 N. Hoover St., and at 1704 (sic) E. 46th St., both of which were destroyed by commando forces for democracy."

(The SWP-VSA has never had offices at The Haymarket at 507 N. Hoover St. They have been located at 1703 E. 4th St. for almost 20 years.)

Another article in the counter-revolutionary publication, headed "Cuban Commandos in L.A., Special Chasteline Report" said, "The history of a radical group of anti-communist citizens, known as Cuban Commandos, began in June, 1967, in Los Angeles, with the slogan 'Against communist violence, democratic violence.'"

The account then outlined the attacks on The Haymarket, the SWP and the Ashgrove.

An advertisement in the publication from Almacenes Alamar, 1806 Sunset Blvd., offers a .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle with a telescopic sight for \$49.00.

"It is not necessary to be an American citizen or resident to acquire this," the ad says. "Easy payments."