

Guns, Explosives Involved  
9 HELD IN ANTI-CASTRO PLOT

Nine persons today faced federal charges and a 10th was being sought in Mexico in a plot which U.S. officials say was aimed at overthrowing the Cuban government.

Federal agents here said the plot involved a munitions smuggling ring and nearly seven tons of plastic explosives seized in a weekend Shreveport raid.

Although U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Galinghouse would not say precisely that the overthrow plot involved Cuba, he said there was "no reason to believe that the munitions were destined for any country other than Cuba."

**CHARGED WITH conspiring** to smuggle the explosives to Mexico for future shipment to a third country were:

Murray Kessler, Brooklyn, New York.

Adler B. Seal, Baton Rouge.

James M. Miller Jr., Baton Rouge.

Joseph Mazzuka, Baton Rouge.

Arthur Henry Lussier, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Antonio Maldonado, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Juan Martinez, Vera Cruz.

Richmond Harper, a prominent rancher-banker, Eagle Pass, Tex.

Marion Hegler, a former inspector for the U.S. Immigration Service, Eagle Pass.

**AGENTS SAID** a warrant seeking the arrest of Francisco "Paco" Flores of Piedras Negras, Mexico, on the conspiracy charge has been issued.

The complaint charges that Kessler and Seal "knew and believed that the material would be used in an attempted overthrow of a foreign nation."

The government contends that the nine were dealing with a man known as "Carlos Dias" to purchase as much as \$1.2 million in munitions and weapons, ranging from submachine guns to M-16s.

No guns, however, were found aboard the DC-4 transport plane seized Saturday in Shreveport by federal agents.

**THE COMPLAINT** alleges that Kessler agreed last Wednesday to sell to Diaz 13,500 pounds of the plastic explosive C-4, 7,000 feet of primacord, 2,600 electrical blasting caps and 25 electrical detonators, for a total of \$430,000.

In addition, it claims that another \$35,000 was to be paid for flying the explosives to an airfield near Vera Cruz, Mexico. However, no money changed hands, officials said.

Kessler took Diaz from New York to a Port Newark, N.J., warehouse May 31, where Diaz showed two letters of

PROBE OF N.O. CRIMINAL JUDGES PLANNED

A probe into parts of the criminal justice system in New Orleans has been ordered by Louisiana officials after receiving transcripts of conversations from the U.S. Justice Department.

Louisiana Atty. Gen. William Guste said the information in the transcripts does not have enough basis so far to take before a grand jury.

He said further investigations, which are planned are needed "before we would take this before a grand jury."

Guste confirmed that the transcripts contained alleged conversations between former

government informer Pershing Gervais and Jerome Winsberg, and Gervais and Charles Ward. Both Winsberg and Ward are judges in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court.

The attorney general also said the transcripts had information about a former judge, Malcolm O'Hara.

Asked by newsmen if the investigation dealt with any allegations of bribery, Guste refused to comment. He said that he considered the material confidential at present.

Newsman Richard Angelico of WVUE-TV aired reports over the weekend on the tran-

scripts, which he said he had seen. He did not say where he got them.

Angelico said Saturday night that the transcripts referred to a meeting between Gervais and Winsberg, before he was a judge, on Feb. 4, 1971. Angelico said there was reference to three of Winsberg's clients who were charged with possession and sale of marijuana and cocaine.

On Sunday night, Angelico said that the federal material also included a statement from a federal agent who had interviewed Gervais. Angelico said it allegedly involved former Judge O'Hara.

Gervais served as a federal government informer in the investigation of Dist. Atty. Jif Garrison, who is among persons charged with conspiracy in an alleged bribery scheme involving pinball machine gambling.

Gervais lived in hiding in Canada for several months, before surfacing this summer and returning to New Orleans. He at that time claimed that Garrison was framed. Gervais alleged he was harassed by the government into helping them.

Gervais said Sunday night in the interview when asked about the transcript that he felt it also was a "frame."

He said he needed permission from Ward and Winsberg before discussing in-depth any reputed conversations.

He alleged a government official has a personal vendetta against Ward.

He said, "I got to suspect Judge Ward will possibly have Republican opposition" in his bid for re-election.

Gervais said he felt that Winsberg was smeared because of a forthcoming election.

credit, the government said.

A rental aircraft was flown that afternoon from Hammond to Shreveport, according to the government.

A RENTAL VAN then went to the South Western Pipe Co. in Shreveport

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and picked up the 13,500 pounds of plastic explosives.

"The explosive was then transported back to the site where the DC4 aircraft was being kept, and, as per agreement, was loaded into the aircraft. It

was then that the federal agents moved in," officials said.

Miller, Luussier, Mazzuka, Maldonado and Martinez were arrested in Shreveport. Kessler and Seal were arrested later near New Orleans International Airport.