

Only 1 Still in Jail In Conspiracy Case

Only one of the nine persons arrested Saturday in what the federal government called a plot to overthrow a foreign government, presumably Cuba, remained in jail today.

Murray Kessler of Brooklyn, N.Y., remained in jail in New Orleans in lieu of \$100,000 bond. The others were released on bond yesterday.

The nine were arrested Saturday in Kenner, Shreveport and Texas on charges of conspiring to transport munitions to Mexico. The federal government charges they were in a \$465,000 scheme to smuggle plastic explosives and other accessories to Mexico for use against another country.

A DC-4 transport plane and nearly seven tons of explosives were seized Saturday night at a Shreveport airport.

A Texas banker-rancher and a commercial airline pilot among those arrested say they are innocent of the charges.

RICHMOND HARPER of Eagle Pass, Tex., a well-known South Texas resident, said yesterday, "It's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard of."

Adler H. Seal of Baton Rouge, a pilot for Trans World Airlines, said here, "I haven't done a thing. That's what you're going to find out."

Seal was released here yesterday on a \$50,000 personal recognizance bond.

The man who remained in jail was identified in the federal complaint as the one who made arrangements for sale of the munitions.

Kessler, the complaint said, arranged to sell the explosives to a man identified only as "Carlos Diaz."

Diaz was identified by the federal government only as claiming to be a citizen of Mexico. Officials said they were looking for him.

Federal authorities yesterday said there were links between Kessler and a Mannie Gambino, a member of an al-

leged New York organized crime family.

Michael Pollack of a Justice Department organized crime strike force in Brooklyn said in New Orleans that Kessler was a partner with Gambino in Neptune Nuggets, a Long Island, N.Y., frozen food packaging firm.

Gambino, 29, has not been reported seen since late May. His bloodstained car was found June 2 at Newark Airport in New Jersey. Gambino is the nephew of Carlo Gambino, identified by the Justice Department as leader of a New York organized crime family.

Harper said in Eagle Pass that "I really don't know anything about all this except what I read in the newspaper. I do know Murray Kessler. He is a friend of mine."

"AND I have loaned him my airplane occasionally when he is down in this part of the world," he said.

"They came and arrested me and haven't said anything about what I am supposed to have done except that I'm charged with conspiracy," he said.

"Presumably, that's because I know Kessler and loaned him my plane," he said.

Harper said that Kessler had borrowed the plane for short trips from Eagle Pass to San Antonio "to catch a plane or something like that."

When told of the wide news coverage, Seal joked: "All I need is a number of Cubans looking for me." He declined to discuss the case in depth.