

Cuban Ties to Demo Break-In

By Tad Szulc
Washington

An organization of Cuban veterans who served in the United States Army after participating in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion was reported by Cuban sources yesterday to have been involved in last Saturday's raid on the Democratic national committee.

The organization, believed to be composed now of only a few of the more than 800 Cubans trained at Fort Jackson, S.C., in 1963, is known by its Spanish name "Ex-Combatientes Cubanos de Fort Jackson."

According to Cuban sources, a number of veterans, enlisting the aid of other Cuban refugees, met several times in Miami with American friends from Washington and agreed on direct action to combat what they viewed as left-wing causes in the United States. The sources said the group has had a role in four incidents here since then, beginning early in May.

The Miami sources said that Angel Ferrer, president of the group, and Humberto Lopes, a member, were in Washington at the Watergate hotel at the time of the alleged attempt to install secret listening devices at the Democratic headquarters, which is in the office building adjoining the hotel. They also were said to have visit-

ed here previously.

Eight persons from Miami were registered at the hotel under false names and four of them were arrested when the police foiled the break-in. The fifth arrested man was from the Washington area.

Other developments in the case yesterday:

- President Nixon said at a news conference that the White House had "no involvement whatsoever" with the incident at the Democratic national committee headquarters. Some Democratic leaders had charged that "all the lines" in this affair point to the White House because, among other factors, E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former ranking Central Intelligence Agency official whose name has been linked to the raiders, served until last March as a part-time White House consultant.

- Hunt, who has been out of reach since Sunday, contacted his present employer — Robert F. Bennett, president of the Washington public relations firm of Robert R. Mullen Co. — by telephone Wednesday night to say that he was leaving his suburban Maryland home because of the publicity in the case.

- The District of Columbia Superior Court reduced the bail of two of the five jailed suspects by \$10,000 each. Four of the five were allowed by Judge James A. Belson to post 10 per cent of the bail as bond with the

court.

None of them were released yesterday, however, because Belson also ruled that the suspects must appear before him in court to explain the sources of the bond money.

Bail was reduced from \$50,000 to \$40,000 for Bernard L. Barker, a wealthy Cuban-born Miami real estate man, and Frank Sturgis, an American with past involvements in Cuba.

Bail remained at \$50,000 for Eugenio R. Martinez, a notary public and an employee of Barker, and Virgilio R. Gonzales, a locksmith. Cuban sources said these two men appear to have had links with the Combatientes.

Bail was kept at \$30,000 for James W. McCord, formerly associated with the CIA and, until last Monday, the security chief for the Republican national committee and the Committee to Re-

elect the President. Cuban sources reported earlier that both McCord and Hunt had made several trips to Miami since March, apparently to meet with Barker and his Cuban political associates.

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