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Miami's Nest of Intrigue Was Hatching Place for Democratic Raid

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Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, June 27 — At 3:30 yesterday afternoon, in Juan-ito's Centro Vasco, a Basque restaurant on Miami's Eighth Street South, West, cluster of dark, mysterious-looking men huddled over syrupy Cuban coffee and brandy.

Gesturing with hand-rolled cigars, the luncheon dawdlers whispered intensely to one another.

"They are probably talking about forming a combine to play the daily double tonight," said a long-time Miami resident who also was lunching late. "But, then again, maybe they are planning a coup d'etat in Cuba."

Political plots have abounded in Miami for 12 years. Most of them never get beyond the talking stage and are aimed at overthrowing the governments of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela and various other South American countries.

Smuggling Plots

There are also plots involving cocaine and heroin or arms smuggling.

Miami contains a large but declining concentration of spies, ex-spies, gangsters, soldiers of fortune and refugees by dictators, and they have en-

hanced the aura of intrigue that prompted The Miami Herald to refer to the city as the Casablanca of the Caribbean.

About two months ago, a pipe-smoking man in a raincoat, whose identity is no publicly known, flew into Miami and after a series of secret interviews put together a team of seven men from the dark Miami bars and restaurants, reportedly to go to New York in May and stage demonstrations.

Four members of this team and one man from the Washington area were arrested 10 days ago and accused of breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee in Washington.

The three other members of the original team were in Miami at the time of the arrests.

Trouble Foreseen

After the arrests, one of the original team members told a friend that he had dropped out of the group because the team had appeared to be headed for trouble.

This man, who is believed to have left the country last week, said that the man in the raincoat, whom he knew by a code name, had hired the team to go to New York but

that the group had ended up in Washington confronting demonstrators outside the Capitol while the body of J. Edgar Hoover lay in state.

The men from Miami who led the counter-demonstration were paid \$100 each. This made the men believe that they were working for the Central Intelligence Agency, because to the Miami Cuban \$100 bills is a C.I.A. agent.

Influence Assumed

They believed that the man in the raincoat offered more than money—they assumed he also offered influence. The team, composed of men dedicated to overthrowing Premier Castro, hope to use this influence to gain an entree with "powerful Government officials."

Bernard L. Barker, the leader of the team, who is also a sometime employe of the C.I.A., especially wanted recognition because he wanted to persuade Government officials to allow Cuban refugees in Spain to come to the United States.

The others, Frank Sturgis—originally known as Frank Fiorini—Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio Gonzalez, also had other reasons. Mr. Sturgis, a gun runner, a

plot, a one-time adviser to Mr. Castro, a friend of the American columnist Jack Anderson, another sometime employe of the C.I.A., may have joined the team because he had been involved in various kinds of intrigue for 15 years.

Mr. Martinez, with training in law and medicine in Cuba, may have gone because he worked for Mr. Barker, ostensibly as a real estate salesman. Mr. Martinez is reported to have infiltrated Cuba 30 or 40 times in the last few years for the C.I.A. A companion described Mr. Martinez as a man with "real guts."

Mr. Gonzalez's motive is an enigma. He is a quiet, unassuming man, who has lived in Miami for 20 years practicing his trade as a safe mechanic and locksmith.

Center Plans Sought

Several months before Mr. Barker became involved with the team, he had sought to get a copy of the architectural drawings of the Miami Beach Convention Center, where the Democratic National Convention is to be held, from a Miami architect, Leonard Glasser, according to Mr. Glasser. When this proved to be impossible, Mr. Barker tried to get a copy of the convention center's air-conditioning plans.

After the arrests in Washington, the police said that the team had diagrams of two ballrooms of the Doral Hotel in Miami Beach, where Senator George McGovern plans to hold staff meetings and news conferences during the convention.

The Miami team, minus three of its original members, flew to Washington for a second time in the last week of May. While the team was in Washington on this visit, staying in the Watergate Hotel, someone broke into the Democratic headquarters.

The team was on its third trip to Washington when arrested. Mr. Barker and his friends were well financed.

After the first visit to Miami of the man in the raincoat, on April 24, \$89,000 was deposited to Mr. Barker's account at the Republic National Bank of Miami. The checks for this amount were written on an account in a bank in Mexico City. After the checks cleared May 8, Mr. Barker withdrew the \$89,000 from the bank, \$10,000 of it in \$100 bills.

This was immediately after the team returned from its shouting match with demonstrators outside the Capitol in Washington.

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