

Watergate Burglars Get \$200,000

Washington

Lawyers for former President Nixon's 1972 campaign fund have agreed to pay \$200,000 in an out-of-court legal settlement to four men recruited for the original Watergate burglary.

"This settlement proves what we have been saying all along, that the Cubans were tricked into participating in the Watergate entries," their lawyer, Daniel Schultze, said yesterday.

The civil case had been scheduled to go on trial tomorrow before U.S. District Judge Charles Richey.

The original lawsuit filed by Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzalez and Frank Sturgis asked \$2 million dollars in damages, mainly from former officials of the 1972 Committee to Re-elect the President.

"I do not have too much emotion left to say 'let's go celebrate, hurrah,' after this long ordeal," Martinez said. "But I feel good. The money settlement is secondary. The importance is a moral victory."

The list of defendants in the
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case read like a Who's Who of the Watergate scandals that drove Nixon from office. They included former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, retired CIA official E. Howard Hunt, G. Gordon Liddy and Jeb Stuart Magruder.

All served as officials of the Committee to Re-elect the President, now known as the 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust.

In their suit, the four Miami men, often referred to as the foot soldiers of Watergate, alleged that they believed they were working for the National Security Agency or the CIA when recruited for the break-in June 17, 1972 at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

All four said they had participated in CIA operations against the Castro government in Cuba, including the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. All served more than a year in prison after pleading guilty to charges stemming from their part in the Watergate burglary.

Hunt knew the Cubans from his CIA days. He recruited three of the four men for the 1971 break-in by the White House plumbers

against Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Later, Hunt asked them for help on the Watergate burglary. But Schultze said the CIA records show far more than their earlier association with Hunt. He would not elaborate, citing the secret classification of the records, which would have been made public in court.

In its last report filed with the Federal Election Commission, the Liquidation Trust showed a balance of \$1.2 million.

The \$50,000 settlement for each of the four Miami men will come from that balance, Schultze said. The agreement was reached over the weekend.

Much of the \$50,000 awarded to each is expected to go to outstanding legal bills.

Barker is employed now as a sanitation inspector for the city of Miami. Martinez and Sturgis are salesmen in the Miami area, and Gonzalez is a lock and safe specialist there.

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