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Counterfeit NL 300

NEW YORK AP - Six Cubans and a Puerto Rican printer were indicted Monday in what the government said was a plot to sell \$1 million in counterfeit bills, ostensibly to finance anti-Castro activities.

Among those indicted were Jesus Gonzalez Carta, 44, described as a former member of the Cuban Congress and official in the Batista regime; and Sergio Castro, 46, no relation to Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, and said to have fled Cuba after leading a band of rebels against Castro.

The others were Perez Carril, 45, former manager of the bankrupt periodical El Mundo Americano here; Nelson Sigler Oropesa, 26, also known as "Charlie Cuba"; Alberto Cepero, 35, and Mrs. Tamara Pino, 26.

Also indicted was German Castanera, 40, of Bergenfield, N.J., a Puerto Rican described as a professional printer.

Authorities said Carril, Oropesa and Cepero were missing and bench warrants had been issued for their arrest.

Asst. U.S. Atty. J. Edward Meyer III said that early last year Gonzalez Carta, Carril and Castro approached Castanera and asked him to make the counterfeit notes to raise money for a counterrevolution in Cuba.

Meyer said the printer was told the bills, made by photo-offset, would be sent to Argentina to pay for the purchase of rifles, machine guns and bazookas.

Castanera delivered the \$100, \$50 and \$20 bills in lots of \$100,000 at a time, Meyer said. The other defendants stored them in various apartments, he said.

Last October, Meyer said, hotel employes reported that fake money was being passed during the World Series and Secret Service agents got on the trail. Later similar bills turned up in New York and Miami, Meyer said.

Agents have seized some \$427,000 of the counterfeit bills in two Manhattan apartments, the prosecutor said, adding the Cubans allegedly had been selling the bills for from 8 to 12 per cent of their face value.

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