

Cache Points Up Secrecy Among Cuban Exiles

By WILL LISSNER

The seizure of arsenal of explosives and automatic weapons near Johnsonburg, N. J., Tuesday called attention to the growth of clandestine groups within the Cuban exile movement that law enforcement officials are seeking to link to the arms cache.

Until last winter the militant groups of anti-Castro émigrés had open headquarters in various parts of New York City, in nearby New Jersey communities and in Miami. Then a movement developed among the exiles for the establishment of a unified organization.

Most of the exile groups threw in their lot with the unity movement, but internal disputes soon tore the unity movement apart and it collapsed. Many of the local headquarters in stores and offices have been closed.

Since then in New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Mexico City, where Cuban exiles are concentrated, small secret groups have replaced the open political organizations that have disintegrated.

Some Secret Groups

One secret group is Poder Cubano ("Cuban Power") or Unite Poder Cubano ("United Cuban Power") known for manifestos distributed in New York and for a red, white and blue sticker bearing its name found at the scene of a bombing at the British Consulate in Los Angeles on July 31.

Another such group is the Cuban Nationalist Movement, members of which were arrested on July 26 when they tried to throw eggs and tomatoes at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, 66 East 67th Street.

Still another is the Movimiento Nacional de Coalicion Cubano ("National Movement for a Cuban Coalition"), a member of which claimed credit for the bombing of the offices of Grove Press at 80 University Place in Greenwich Village on July 26.

Still other groups are the Asociacion Secreta de Veteranos de Bahia de Cochinos ("Secret Organization of Veterans of the Bay of Pigs"), La Mano Blanca ("The White Hand"), Bloque de Trabajo de Anticomunistas Cubanos ("Working Bloc of Cuban Anti-Communists"), Movimiento Salvemos a Cuba ("We Are Saving Cuba Movement") and the Frente Cubano de Liberacion ("Cuban Liberation Front").

At the Jersey arms cache, raiders found a shoulder patch with the legend, "Brigade 2506," the abbreviated form of the name of an organization called the 2506th Cuban As-

Militant Emigres Went Underground After Unity Movement Collapsed

sault Brigade of the Bay of Pigs, originally formed by veterans of that unit in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

In Miami, Salvadore Nadruga, the head of Brigade 2506, said his organization had nothing to do with the New Jersey cache and no connection with the farm.

He said that members of the Ejercito Libertador Cubano ("Cuban Liberation Army"), another exile group, had used the farm for target practice, using weapons that were available there. Virtually all who did so were from the New York area, not Miami, he said.

Morale Reported Down

A member of Brigade 2506, a West New York, N. J., businessman who asked that his name not be used said that morale had collapsed after the failure of the unity movement.

"Every time there's a raid on Cuba or a bombing in the States all the secret splinter groups claim credit for it but it doesn't mean anything," he said. "The fact is nobody knows who has done it—but those who did it."

Government agents and detectives who have investigated bombings have said the same thing.

The Cuban Power group sent a statement to news media in Miami last June, making veiled warnings against the ships and planes of governments that continued to trade with Cuba.

Organized in 1967, Cuban Power, among others, claimed credit last January for damaging a Mexican plane loaded with cargo for Cuba at Miami International Airport. At the same time, two Cuban-owned freight forwarding agencies in Miami were bombed. A Cuban exile was arrested and is awaiting trial in the bombings.

The latest bombing for which credit was claimed for Cuban Power took place in Miami Harbor last Thursday. A plastic mine damaged the 2,100-ton British cargo ship Caribbean Venture.

Believed to Be Split

But the Cuban Power group is believed to have split following a bitter personal clash between its original leaders a few months ago. Authorities believe there are now two groups using the name Cuban Power.

Organizations believed to have become inactive since last

spring, besides the Cuban Liberation Army created as a focal point of the unity movement by Brigade 2506, include Alfa 66 and the Second Escambray Front, two groups once active against Cuban shipping and the Insurreccional Revolutionary Movement, which staged an air raid on Cuba a year ago.

It is that the leader of one organization would say, when he was asked about its activities, was: "We maintain our clubs and our plans."

Militant activists are just the fringes of the prosperous refugee communities in Miami, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Miamis community is expected to number 200,000 persons by the end of the year. In New York City, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, there are 57,716 Cuban alien residents. In the New York-New Jersey area the total is 102,148. This does not include thousands who have become United States citizens.

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