

How Cuban Exiles Got CIA Bombs

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Los Angeles

Explosives used by Cuban exiles to bomb five buildings in the Los Angeles area last July 19 originally came from the Central Intelligence Agency, according to a Los Angeles county grand jury transcript.

That revelation and the fact that the man who claims to have masterminded the bombings was trained in the use of explosives by the CIA is contained in the testimony of two special agents for the FBI.

Bernardo M. Perez and Richard Castillo were two of the 30 witnesses, most of them police officers or FBI agents, who testified during an inquiry last month which led to the indictment of two of the alleged bombers.

CHARGED

Hector M. Cornillot y Llano Jr., and Juan Garcia-Cardenas, both 30 and from Miami, are charged with 15 counts of illegally possessing and discharging explosives.

They are charged with three counts in connection with each of the five bombings which occurred during a two hour and 20 minute period beginning at midnight.

In making the disclosures, Perez and Castillo were quoting from conversations they had in October with Cornillot, prior to the time of his arrest, but while he was a suspect in the case.

"Was Mr. Cornillot during this conversation ever asked where they had obtained the explosives?" deputy district attorney Richard W. Hecht asked Perez.

SOURCE

"Yes sir, he said the explosives came from the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency, and he stated that this was the original source and that it did not come directly from the CIA," Perez replied.

Quoting Cornillot, Perez said:

"He (Cornillot) explained, which we already knew, that after the Bay of Pigs invasion, C-4 and other explosives were — could be found anywhere in the Miami area.

"Many of the Cubans who were sent on this invasion never actually went. We found they went to small islands near Cuba where they buried all of these weapons, knowing they could go back later and sell them.

"And he (Cornillot) said that he had connections and that he could obtain these explosives."

TRAINING

Hecht asked Castillo if Cornillot, during any of their interviews with him, ever told where he received any training in the use of explosives.

"Yes sir, he did," answered the FBI agent, who, to

See Back Page

From Page 1

gether with Perez, is attached to the Miami office.

Quoting Cornillot, Castillo said:

"He (Cornillot) said that he was part of the military unit that took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba and that in preparation for that invasion he received extensive training in explosives and subsequently was very well acquainted with their makeup and their use."

ORGANIZATION

Hecht asked if Cornillot had mentioned which organization gave him that training.

"Yes sir. He said it was the CIA," Castillo testified.

Cornillot told the FBI agents, according to their testimony, that he was a member of "Los Subversivos," and action group of the militant "Cuban Power" organization.

Everything they did was to further the Cuban liberation movement, the witnesses said they learned in their interrogation of Cornillot.

PURPOSE

Castillo testified that Cornillot told him after his arrest that he (Cornillot) brought the explosives to Los Angeles the first week in July, and that he personally

constructed the bombs and designated the targets.

According to further testimony, Cornillot said the purpose of the bombings was to bring to the attention of the American people the Cuban liberation movement and to show the sincerity of the exiles.

This, Cornillot allegedly explained to the FBI agents, would encourage Americans to help the movement by providing arms and money for use in the liberation of Cuba.

Cornillot and Garcia-Cardenas were arrested October 28 in Miami.

Garcia-Cardenas was extradited from Miami last week and is awaiting trial here.

NEW YORK

Hecht said Cornillot is being held for trial in New York City for his alleged role in several bombings there.

The witnesses did not tell how the targets here were selected, but it is believed that business firms and government agencies which had done business with Cuba were chosen.

The buildings bombed here were the Government of Mexico Tourist Department, the Mexican National Tourist Council, the Shell Data Processing Center, Air France Airlines and Japan Airlines.