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Five Americans Fined by Cuba

Miami

Five Americans — a teen-age adventurer and yachtsmen — have been convicted of violating Cuban territorial waters and fined \$20,000 each, Havana Radio announced yesterday.

Cuban courts fined the Americans just six days after a U.S. district court in Key West, Fla., fined four Cuban fishing boat captains \$10,000 and sentenced them to six months in jail for poaching in American waters near Dry Tortugas.

Havana Radio, in a brief announcement monitored in Miami, said the five Americans had acknowledged their guilt in "violating Cuban territorial waters by landing illegally in Cuba."

A State Department spokesman said he had no idea what, if any, action would be taken to seek release of the Americans.

The five were identified as Fritz Sprandel, a 17-year-old from Pennsylvania who drifted onto the north Cuban coast May 2 while attempting to paddle a canoe from Key West to Mexico; Dr. Bernard Bender of Canoga Park, Calif.; his sons, Alan and Michael, and a friend, Joseph McGuire.

Bender, a dentist, had been subpoenaed twice by a Los Angeles grand jury that was investigating the possibility that dentists had been putting dental braces on young men to help them to avoid the draft.

United Press

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5 Americans Fined \$100,000 for Sailing Into Cuban Waters

NYTimes JUN 16 1971

HAVANA, June 15 (Reuters) — Five United States citizens found guilty of having illegally entered Cuban waters in two Cuban boats have been fined a total of \$100,000, the official Cuban newspaper Granma reported today.

The five were identified as Fritz Tyson Sprandel, Bernard Bender, his two sons Lawrence and Michael, and Joseph McGuire.

Granma said that Fritz Sprandel, who is 17 years old, was tried by the revolutionary tribunal in Las Villas. He arrived at Cayo Megano in central Cuba on May 22 in a canoe. The four others were tried by the revolutionary tribunal in Oriente Province, the newspaper said.

They were aboard a 58-foot yacht when they arrived at Cabo Cruz on the south side of Oriente Province on June 6, Granma said.

The whereabouts of the Americans was not immediately known. It was presumed that they were being held in jail until each paid a \$20,000 fine.

Granma said that in both cases, the men admitted having entered Cuban territorial waters and landing illegally on Cuban soil.

In Washington, Secretary of State William P. Rogers said the United States had not yet decided whether to pay the fines for the five men. Mr. Rogers said the United States had not yet ascertained whether their craft had been in Cuban or in international waters and was seeking more information.

In the meantime, Mr. Rogers added, the Cuban Government has agreed to release eight crewmen of a United States tugboat that entered Cuban waters seeking repairs after the vessel became disabled.

Granma also reported today that telegrams and messages from all over Cuba continued to pour into Havana protesting the condemnation of four Cuban fishermen by a court in Key West, Fla. They were sentenced on June 9 to six months in prison and fined \$10,000 each for fishing inside the United States 12-mile limit. There is speculation that the fining of the five Americans was in retaliation for the Florida courts action.

Granma reported that Cuban fishermen declared that they were ready to remain in prison as long as necessary so that Cuba would not have to pay the fines.