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U. S. Releases Castroites in Captives Swap

Three Events Take Place After Miami Arrival of Donovan

By the Associated Press

Three alleged Cuban saboteurs and a pro-Castro Cuban convicted of murder were returned to their native land today in a swap for 21 Americans released from Cuban prisons.

A key figure behind the exchange was New York Attorney General James B. Donovan, who also engineered the Abel-Ferres spy swap and the release of 1,113 Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners.

These events took place after Mr. Donovan arrived in Miami yesterday with 21 Americans who had been imprisoned in Cuba.

1. The Justice Department announced it was dropping charges against two Cuban nationalists and one Cuban-American under indictment in New York for an alleged sabotage conspiracy.

2. Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller freed from a New York State prison a pro-Castro Cuban sentenced to 20-years-to-life for the 1960 accidental slaying of a 5-year-old Venezuelan girl during a political brawl in a New York restaurant.

3. Shortly before 10 o'clock last night, the four Cubans were placed on a plane at Idlewild Airport in New York. They were flown to meet a Cubana Airlines plane in Florida and left for Havana this morning.

Kennedy Calls It Trade

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy told newsmen at the New York reception by the Cuban Prisoners Committee last night the decision to free the alleged Cuban saboteurs was part of a trade for the American prisoners in Cuba.

Gov. Rockefeller said that the other part of the deal was the release of the convicted Cuban slayer, Francisco "The Hook" Molina (Rt. 31).

The Governor said the Federal Government had informed him that the release of Molina was "necessary in the national interest." He said the Government had assured him the move would help secure the release of 21 Americans.

Indicted Last November

The Cubans indicted on sabotage conspiracy charges by a Federal grand jury were arrested in New York last November 16. They are Roberto Santiesteban Casanova, 27, an attache with the Cuban mission to the United Nations; Antonio Suelro, 23, a Cuban living in New York; and Jose Garcia Orellana, 43, a naturalized American citizen who operated a costume jewelry shop in New York.

They were accused of conspiring to learn about defense installations and about use of explosives so they could destroy such installations. Federal agents confiscated a large amount of explosives from Garcia's jewelry shop when the three were picked up.

At the time, sources in the United States attorney's office here said the trio planned to throw hand grenades into crowds of Manhattan shoppers and blow up oil refineries in New Jersey.

The indictments against the three were dismissed by Judge Thomas F. Croake in Federal District Court in Manhattan late yesterday. Then the three were taken to Idlewild and placed aboard an immigration Service DC-4, along with Molina.

Jose Gomez Abad, 21, and his wife, Elsa, 20, both attaches with the Cuban U. N. mission, were named in the indictment as co-conspirators but not as defendants. They left the United States October 19 at the request of the State Department.

Molina fatally wounded the Venezuelan child, Magdalena Urdaneta, an innocent bystander during a Manhattan restaurant fight between a group of supporters of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and anti-Castro demonstrators.

Girl Was Visitor

The young victim, shot in the back by one of several bullets fired by Molina, had been visiting the United States with her parents.

Mr. Castro was in Manhattan at the time for an appearance before the United Nations.

Havana radio, as long ago as May, 1961, had been calling upon Gov. Rockefeller and President Kennedy to free Molina. He was released, Gov. Rockefeller said, under the express condition that he "be deported forthwith and never again re-enter the United States."

Molina, convicted of second-degree murder, will be considered an escaped convict and compelled to finish out his life term if he ever returns to this country.

He had been serving his sentence at Green Haven Prison, Stormville, N. Y. Molina

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has gone by the nickname "The Hook" because he sometimes wears one on his forearm in place of a lost hand.

Fourth Coup

For Mr. Donovan, the prison swap was his fourth major coup along such lines.

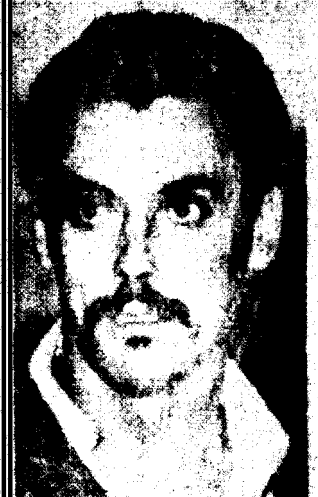
He was one of those honored by the Cuban Prisoners Committee at the reception attended by Attorney General Kennedy last night.

Mr. Donovan flew here yesterday from Florida, saying he had completed his last mission to Cuba.

Earlier this month, he won freedom for nine American prisoners held prisoner in Cuba since their boat sank in Bahaman waters last January, and for an American missionary captured by Mr. Castro of being counter-revolutionary.

Last Christmas he negotiated the release of 1,113 Cuban refugees taken prisoner in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. The ransom price was the million worth of food and medical supplies.

In 1962 he arranged for the swap of American U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers, imprisoned in Russia, for Soviet Master Spy Rudolph Abel, serving a 30-year prison term in the United States for espionage.



MOLINA



SUERRO



SANTESTEBAN



GARCIA

These are the three Cubans and a Cuban-American freed yesterday by the United States. They were released from Cuban jails. —AP Wirephotos.