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U. S. Set to Open Its Case In Bomber-Export Trial

10 Men, 2 Women Are Selected for Jury;
3 Accused of Conspiracy Involving B-26s

By MON MASELKA

The government was set to open its case in Federal Court late today against three men accused of engaging in a conspiracy to export seven B-26 bombers and related armaments to Portugal.

After nearly 3 1/2 hours of selection Tuesday, a jury of 10 men and two women were sworn before Judge John C. Henderson. One man was selected as an alternate.

The judge set aside this morning for a hearing on pre-trial defense motions, without the jury's presence.

Prior to Tuesday's jury selection, the government dropped charges against a fourth defendant, Keat Griggers, 42, a Jamestown, Calif., aircraft mechanic.

U. S. Atty. John T. Curtin declined to give reasons for the dismissal.

However, Deputy U. S. Marshal Joseph J. Hoffarth immediately served Mr. Griggers a subpoena to appear as a witness for the government later in the trial.

Two-to-Four-Week Trial

Mr. Griggers' Buffalo attorney, Joseph M. Ralabate, said he assumed "the federal attorney's office has felt the proof would not be legally sufficient to in any way involve my client."

What Mr. Griggers will do when called to the witness stand is not now known. However, Mr. Ralabate said he will advise Mr. Griggers of his constitutional right to invoke the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.

Judge Henderson said the trial is expected to last from two to four weeks. Two potential jurors, a man and a woman, were challenged by defense attorneys and excused during the first hour of selection.

The three remaining defendants are John R. Hawke, 28, a former RAF pilot; Woodrow Wilton Roderick, 47, an aircraft businessman from Winnipeg, Man., and Henri Marie Francois de Marin de Montmarin, 58, a French count and industrialist from Paris.

CIA Center of Questioning

A fifth man named in the indictment has not been found. He is Gregory R. Board, 45, a native Australian last reported in Jamaica.

A hint of future defense tactics may have been provided when Hawke's attorney, Edwin Marger of Miami, asked the prospective jurors if their verdict would be affected by proof showing CIA involvement and a possible conflict with official U. S. government foreign policy toward the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola.

Previously-published reports have cited CIA sponsorship of the venture and indicated that the exported planes were destined to aid Portugal against rebellious African colonies. The government has denied this.