

Carded

Skin Divers and Missionary, Freed by Castro, Reach U. S.

THE EVENING STAR A-3
Washington, D. C. ★★ ★★
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MIAMI, Fla., April 9 (AP). —Nine American skin divers and an American missionary landed at Homestead Air Force Base today after serving time in Cuban jails.

The Pan American Airline DC-3 that brought them from Havana also carried James Donovan, New York lawyer, who negotiated with Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro for their release.

The missionary, the Rev.

Floyd C. Woodworth, was accused by Premier Castro in a midnight television speech of working for the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Woodworth's wife and two children flew in from Cuba about two weeks ago on a Red Cross ransom flight. She went to her home in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Woodworth's home is Arcadia, Calif. He is a native of Pueblo, Colo.

Proved Innocent

Mr. Donovan, who also negotiated release of the Bay of Pigs prisoners last December, said Premier Castro agreed to free the skin divers after Mr. Donovan proved them innocent of any counterrevolutionary activity.

They had been held for seven weeks. They had been shipwrecked and had arrived at Camaguey in an open boat February 21. After two days at sea without food and water. They said they were bound for Puerto Rico. The Cuban government arrested them.

Among the relatives waiting at Homestead Air Base was Mrs. Betsy Ann Browne, wife of Jack W. Browne, a native of Milwaukee and a resident of Miami for 12 years. The tall, striking, black-haired woman said her husband was 46 yesterday and that a welcome home party was planned.

She said the boat the Americans were in when it sank was her husband's and was newly outfitted. The boat, the Shrub, was designed for fishing and lobstering, she said. It also

carried skin-diving apparatus designed by Mr. Browne, Mrs. Browne added.

Mrs. Browne, daughter of Col. and Mrs. C. P. Evers of San Antonio, Tex., said she understood the vessel sank 100 miles north of Cuba in Bahaman waters.

Don Baird, 16, another of the skin divers, was greeted by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Baird of Hollywood, Fla. They moved from Madison, Ga., last January. His parents said they are missionaries for the New Life Crusade.

Another on the Pan American Airline plane was a skin diver identified both as Richard Avery and Richard Apakian of Philadelphia. The State Department listed him as Avery but the name of Apakian

was confirmed by a newsman who interviewed his father in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Opal Ingrewson, Omaha, Nebr., flew to the air base to greet her son, Steven V. Baade, also of Omaha.

Alexandrian in Group

The other skin divers previously had been identified as Robert C. Moran Lockport, N. Y.; Clifford G. Burnes, Lebanon, N. H.; John R. Klinner, Miami; James Brown, Chester, Pa., and Charles E. Bocher Alexandria, Va.

Mr. Donovan talked earlier with newsmen in Havana.

"The government has informed me that it has determined, despite the suspicious circumstances of the case, the innocence of the expedition," Mr. Donovan said in a postmidnight session. "The fact that they were shipwrecked seamen has been established."