

More Arrests Are Made In Plot Against Batista

Associated Press

Havana, Cuba, June 27 — The wave of arrests of alleged plotters against the life of Cuba's President Fulgencio Batista spread last night from Mexico to Cuba.

Twenty-six persons have been detained in Mexico City. Most are Cuban exiles but the group also includes an Argentine and a Spaniard. In Havana, 17 persons believed involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Batista and set off an uprising were rounded up. Batista's government said arms were found hidden in several homes.

Those jailed here were to be turned over to an "urgency" court for preliminary hearing today. Among them was Jose (Peipillo) Sanchez, a Cuban bullfighter who made his debut in Madrid in 1954 wearing a costume embroidered by Batista's mother-in-law.

Brig. Rafael Salas Canizares, chief of Cuban police, charged that ex-President Carlos Prío Socarrós also was implicated in the plot. Prío, an exile in Miami, Fla., already has issued a statement denying connection with any group seeking to force changes in Cuba.

Mexican police said the plot they had uncovered did not involve Prío but that there was evidence of affiliation with groups in Miami and Tampa, Fla., New York, Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala and several Cuban cities. They turned over to the Interior Ministry documents they said indicated the plotters received material aid from Communists.

Mexican federal police said the conspiracy's leaders were Fidel Castro, a fugitive from a 15-year Cuban sentence for leading a 1953 revolt against Batista, and Ernesto Guevara Serna, an Argentine who went to Mexico from Guatemala after the fall of the Communist-supported government of President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman. The police said Guevara Serna also had been involved in political movements in Panama and the Dominican Republic.