

Faget Regains Power In Cuba

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Arrest of a Miami restaurant owner by Cuban police has revealed that a former Miamian who was once Fulgencio Batista's chief of espionage is back in a position of high power in Cuba.

Until a few weeks ago Mariano Faget was an employe of an airline here.

Today Manuel Paula, 55, a U.S. citizen by birth and operator of a restaurant at 435 NE 1st Ave., disclosed that it was Faget who interrogated him during the five days he was held by Cuban police.

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Paula was grabbed by Cuban police at Havana Airport last Thursday as he and his wife were about to board a plane for Miami after a business trip, he related.

He said he was accused of supporting Fidel Castro, Cuban revolutionary opposing the regime of President Batista. Mrs. Paula was detained also, and told to return to her hotel.

Paula said he spent Thursday night lying on the bare tile floor of a bunkless cell, but the following day he was removed to a cell which had a bunk. He was permitted to buy food from a canteen.

Another Miamian Held

Paula said his protests that he was a native American, born in Tampa, were to no avail, and it was not until intervention of

a U.S. vice-consul that he was released after five days. He returned to Miami last night.

"There was another Miamian — also a U.S. citizen—in the same jail," Paula said. "He arrived in Havana on the same plane with me and later I saw him in jail. I told the consul about him."

Paula identified the man as Gustavo Gutierrez, of 2754 NW 17th St. At that address today, Gutierrez' wife Lucy, said her husband had telephoned relatives here that he was free, but was remaining in Havana for a few days. Mrs. Gutierrez said her husband was born in Cuba, but had served in the U.S. Army and was now a citizen of this country.

Paula said Faget was neither friendly nor unfriendly in his attitude during the interrogations.

"He acted in a strictly official manner."

Faget's address is listed in the current Miami telephone directory as 75 SW 32nd Ct. Rd.

Only last October he was granted a pistol permit by the Dade County Commission after claiming he had received threatening telephone calls during a period of unrest in Havana in which the chief of military intelligence in Cuba was slain.

In 1945, Faget successfully fought efforts of the Cuban government to extradite him on a charge of beating Harris Brown Cardi to death.



Faget