

THE WEEKEND dispatch

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JANUARY 15, 1977

4—The Weekend Dispatch, January 15, 1977 CF

3 anti-Fidel bombers get 3 years

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A Manhattan Supreme Court justice yesterday rebuked three convicted North Hudson anti-Castro terrorists, condemning their actions, but then softened and sentenced them to just three of a possible 25 years in jail.

Sentenced in connection with their attempt to blow up a Manhattan theater where a pro-Castro rally was scheduled were Armando Santana, 25, of 102 59th st., West New York, and Jorge Gomez, 28, of 317 29th st. and Alfredo Chumaceiro, 22, of 324 24th st., both Union City.

Before imposing the jail terms, Justice Irving Lang declared, "The lesson must be loud and clear: courts of this nation will not tolerate terrorism.

"We may proclaim, we may protest, we may demonstrate, we may petition provided that it is peaceful. But terror is totally unacceptable," the justice said.

A source in the New York courts said that Lang was lenient "since no one was injured." As a result, the source added, "three out of 25 is about par for the course for this type of thing."

Asks Stiffer Terms

However, Asst. Dist. Atty. James Ryab argued for stiffer sentences. He said that if police hadn't stopped the three terrorists in the act, the six persons inside the theater would probably have been killed.

Defense attorney Oscar Gonzalez Suarez replied, "If we accuse these three young men, we would have to accuse also Jefferson, Washington, Lincoln and all other patriots who have fought for the freedom of their countries, and for the freedom of the world. They are no criminals."

About 60 persons, including representatives of several New Jersey civic, religious and revolutionary organizations, attended. Lang

acknowledged their presence, and the receipt of letters and petitions for clemency, and others prominent in the religious life of the Cuban Community.

The three were seized by police last July as they attempted to set off an explosive pipebomb next to the cashier's window of the Academy of Music at 126 East 14th st. They pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing a weapon.

The pro-Castro rally which the three North Hudson men attempted to bomb was a celebration of July 26, when Castro forces launched their first attack 23 years ago against the former Cuban military regime in the Island's Oriente Province.

July 26 is celebrated in Cuba as the first day of the Cuban communist revolution.

"My son loves freedom and he would fight for the United States liberty and democracy as well as he does for our country," said Mrs. Denise Santana, mother of Armando Santana, later yesterday at her home in West New York.