

Three Castro Foes Arrested in Firing Of Bazooka at U.N.

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By PETER KIHSS

Three Cubans, understood to be opponents of the regime of Premier Fidel Castro, were arrested last night in the Dec. 11 firing of a bazooka shell toward the United Nations Headquarters.

Chief of Detectives Philip J. Walsh said each of the three was charged with endangering life maliciously by placing an explosive near a building, and with attempting to damage a building or a vessel, both of which are felonies. They were further charged with conspiracy, a misdemeanor.

Chief Walsh identified the three men as:

Julio Carlos Perez, 31 years old, of 247 Audubon Avenue, a teletype repairman who has been in the United States for three years. He was booked as 29.

Ignacio Nova, 26, of 535 West 50th Street, a shoe salesman who has been here for 12 years. He was booked, however, as "Ignacio Nova."

Guillermo Nova, 23, his brother, of 1414 91st Street, North Bergen, N.J., a doorman, who has also been here for 12 years.

Chief Walsh, Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy and District Attorney Frank D. O'Connor of Queens said the ar-

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rests resulted from intensive police work, including painstaking checkups on the sale of bazookas.

However, Stanley Ross, editor of *El Tiempo*, a Spanish-language weekly, asserted the three had agreed to surrender after discussing the affair with him and his associates.

Mr. Ross said the men had told him that "they could have hit the United Nations headquarters but purposely didn't." Instead, he said, they sought to stage a demonstration so as to take away newspaper headlines from Maj. Ernesto Che Guevara, Cuban Minister of Industry, who was addressing the General Assembly at the time.

Matter of Conjecture

When Chief Walsh was asked if they had tried to hit the United Nations buildings, he said only, "That's conjectural." District Attorney O'Connor, in reply to questions about motives, said this was a "matter of conjecture," and then added, "I suppose some misguided sense of patriotism."

Mr. Ross said the three were members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, which has offices in Miami.

In Miami, Felipe Rivero, national director of the movement, which is also known as the Cuban Nationalist Association, said before the men were

3 Held in Bazooka-Firing at the U.N.



Associated Press

Ignacio Nova, left, Guillermo Nova, center, and Julio Carlos Perez after their arrest. They were each charged with two felonies and one misdemeanor in U.N. bazooka incident.

arrested that Ignacio Nova was his organization's national secretary general and that Guillermo Nova was delegate for New Jersey.

A "Julio Perez" is chief of the organization's "naval department," Mr. Rivero said.

Mr. Rivero said he knew nothing about who had perpetrated the bazooka incident. His organization, he said, had caused the explosion on the Cuban freighter *Maria Teresa* in Montreal last Aug. 9, and had staged a fight in front of the Cuban consulate here in 1960 and disturbances at the United Nations and the Organization of American States meeting in Washington this year.

"But we have made very clear our position not to do anything hostile in this country, anything that would put this country in a difficult position," Mr. Rivero said. "We try not to clash with American authorities."

Mr. Ross said the three men had told him and others at *El Tiempo* that they had bought the bazooka, a portable rocket-launcher, for \$35 in an Eighth Avenue shop and rebuilt it.

The police had earlier reported that the weapon had been identified by experts at the Army Proving Ground at Aberdeen, Md., as an 8.8 centimeter-equivalent of 3.46 inches in diameter German bazooka rocket-launcher tube, manufactured in World War II.

The police said the bazooka appeared to have been sawed off from a five-foot length to less than three feet, and set up as a sort of mortar with a clocklike timing device.

The shell was fired from the East River waterfront alongside the Adam Metal Supply plant at 4-63 48th Avenue, Long Island City. It landed in the East River about 200 yards short of the 38-story United

Nations Secretariat building, bazooka incident had hurt the sending up a 15-foot geyser of water.

Investigators said the bazooka had been elevated to about 20 degrees, so that the shell had traveled only about 800 yards.

If it had been elevated at a higher angle, it could have carried as far as 1,300 yards, shattered the glass and concrete facade of the United Nations building, causing many casualties among the 5,000 persons there at the time.

Chief Walsh said the police had investigated a number of individuals and had checked intensively on the sale of bazookas. As a result, he said, the three prisoners were interviewed in the first week of the inquiry, but had to be released for lack of evidence.

"However," he went on, "surveillance and investigation of them continued, and through this, we finally learned they were desirous of surrendering. Two of the men were picked up at work today and the third came in as a result of a phone call from the others. The men have made statements to the charge could mean a 3-year term."

Mr. Ross said *El Tiempo* Commissioner Murphy said had been asked for help by the case showed "a tremendous the Bureau of Special Services need for legislation" for better of the Police Department and control of the sale of weapons, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As a result, he been audible in the hall of the said, his reporters found the General Assembly. Major Guev men and met with them five vará had been denouncing the times in eight days.

Yesterday afternoon, he said, from the blast: the men agreed at his office. Shortly before, 50 anti-Guevara pickets had been marching at 78 Fifth Avenue to render to the police at 6 P.M. in front of the United Nations at the office of their lawyer, headquarters and a woman ran Peter James Johnson, at 120 hysterically from the group in Wall Street. Instead, he said, an attempt to force her way they were picked up before into the building with a seven-inch hunting knife. She said

Mr. Ross said he and his associates had told the men that the sinate Major Guevara.