



CHARGED IN U.N. BAZOOKA SHOT—New York — Three Cubans, identified as officials of an anti-Castro exile group, are shown in Long Island City police station in Queens Borough where they were charged with taking part in the Dec. 11 bazooka shot at the United Nations Building. From left are Ignacio Novo, Detective William Riley, Julio Carlos Perez and Guillermo Novo.—(AP Wirephoto)

Group That Fired Bazooka At U.N. Formed 5 Years Ago

MIAMI (AP) — The Cuban Nationalist Association, three of whose members are held in connection with the firing of a bazooka at the United Nations building Dec. 11, was organized in a New York city basement five years ago, its leader said yesterday.

Felipe Rivero, head of the group, said one of its seven organizers was Ignacio Novo, now national secretary and a defendant in New York in the bazooka case.

"I was in Mexico at the time, and Ignacio telephoned me," Rivero said. "I returned and they elected me head of the group."

Rivero, 40-year-old former Cuban writer and businessman, said the association "has no rightist and no leftist position, and no Batistiano or Fidelista position. The latter referred to the rightist ex-dictator Fulgenio Batista and leftist dictator Fidel Castro.

Nationalism Good

"Nationalism is patriotism and what is good for a nation," the anti-Castro exile continued.

"From the beginning we tried to start war against Castro," Rivero said. He added that "ambitions of certain Cubans and blunders of the U.S. Government on the Cuban question" stood in their way.

In August, 1963, Rivero recounted, the Nationalist Association bombed the Cuban cargo boat Maria Teresa in a Canadian port.

"The boat did not sink, but Castro's merchant marine got our message," he remarked.

In February, 1963, after an American student group returned from a Cuban visit, a Nationalist Association commando group dressed in gray stoned the United Nations building, Rivero said.

The United Nations had ignored "the tragedy of Cuba," Rivero explained.

A Third Color

He said the gray uniforms represented a third military color, different from the Batista army's khaki and the Castro army's green.

Last summer, Rivero continued, his association put a "violent touch" to an exile march on Washington to ask the Organization of American States to act in behalf of Cuba. Disorders resulted after a demonstration that began peacefully.

Rivero explained his group opposed a "servile attitude" before an organization that "spent five years doing nothing for oppressed Cuba."

Rivero, first cousin of Jose Ignacio Rivero, exiled publisher

of the prestigious Havana daily, *Diario de la Marina*, attracted widespread attention when he was virtually the only Bay of Pigs invasion prisoner from among some 60 paraded on Havana television in 1961 to assert himself. Others, apparently brainwashed, spoke out against the United States.

Rivero said at the time: "Why get out of one imperialism and get into another one? Why not a third position between the two great powers? Why not Cuba above all?"