

Rebels Fire On Newspaper Plant, Seize 3 AP Men

HAVANA (AP)—Armed Cuban rebels fired today on the Havana Post building and temporarily detained three Associated Press men covering the city's post - revolt convulsion. The three were released after questioning.

Larry Allen, roving AP correspondent; George Kaufman, Havana AP Bureau chief; and Harold Valentine, AP photographer from Miami, were taken to a police station but were freed 30 minutes later.

Rebels carrying machineguns, rifles, and other weapons opened fire on the Post building. Several bullets smashed through the windows and into the walls of the Post editorial office adjoining the AP headquarters on the second floor. The Post is an English-language newspaper.

Allen and Kaufman were working in the AP office, and Valentine was in the photo darkroom.

The front door of the building was smashed in, and six rebels pounded up the stairs and leveled rifles at the AP men. They escorted them into the Post composing room, where they claimed to have found a pistol and attempted to pin ownership on the AP.

"We tried to argue our way out of it," Allen said, "but the rebels became more menacing.

"We were herded downstairs and into an automobile and taken to a police station where young rebels were running the show.

"After much protesting and explaining that we were Americans, the rebels decided to release us and permit us to return to the bullet-battered Post building."

As Allen, Kaufman, and Valentine were taken out of the building, Bob Clark, AP writer from Miami who had just reached Havana after a charter plane flight, walked into the building.

Clark grabbed a phone and dictated the story of the arrest until the others returned.

"Young boys were running wild through the streets, waving guns and picking up anyone they suspected of possessing arms or of being anti-Castro," Allen said.

"It is a wild situation that could go out of control at any time and develop into something horrible.

"There is no protection for Americans whatsoever, except what the rebels themselves give."

William L. Ryan, AP news analyst who also is in Cuba helping to cover the revolution, was not in the AP office when it was invaded. He arrived shortly after the others had been taken away.