

Uruguayan Leftists Free U.S. Adviser Seized in '70

By United Press International

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Wednesday, March 3—Dr. Claude L. Fly, a United States agronomist who was kidnapped nearly seven months ago by leftist urban guerrillas,

was set free last night. Suffering from a heart attack, he was left in a stretcher at the gates of a hospital.

"Please help me, I'm sick," Fly called out to attendants. They carried him into British Hospital, in a residential area about a mile from downtown Montevideo.

Dr. Fly, 65 years old, of Fort Collins, Colo., later felt well enough to chat briefly in his fourth-floor hospital room with the United States Ambassador, Charles W. Adair Jr.

"I'm happy and excited about finding myself among free men again," Mr. Adair quoted Dr. Fly as having said. "I'm anxious to see my family again."

The Tupamaro guerrillas who kidnapped Dr. Fly last Aug. 7 drove him to the hospital last night in a station wagon, carried him out on the stretcher and then drove off. The police quickly set up roadblocks at all

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streets leading away from the hospital but there were no reports that the kidnappers had been arrested.

A hospital spokesman said that a heart specialist had examined Dr. Fly and estimated that he suffered a heart attack "eight or 10 days ago." Interior Minister Santiago de Brum Carbajal said that Dr. Fly's condition was serious.

The soil specialist was one of four foreigners kidnapped by the Tupamaros in the last year. The only other United States citizen, Dan A. Mitrione, a police adviser from Indiana, was seized July 31 and killed 10 days later when the Government refused to meet any ransom demands.

Ransom Is Reported

The Brazilian consul, Aloysio Dias Gomide, who was abducted the same day as Mr. Mitrione, was set free Jan. 21 after his wife was reported to have paid the guerrillas a ransom of at least \$250,000.

The guerrillas still hold the



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Dr. Claude L. Fly

British Ambassador, Geoffrey Jackson, who was seized last Jan. 8.

The kidnappers have demanded the release of political prisoners in Uruguay as ransom

for hostages but the Government of President Jorge Pacheco Areco has refused to consider any agreements.

Dr. Fly was kidnapped while he worked in his laboratory at the Uruguayan Agriculture Ministry's research building outside Montevideo. He was working as a private consultant to the Government and had no official ties with the United States Government.

A 1927 graduate of Oklahoma State University, he worked for the United States Agriculture Department until 1963 when he became a private consultant to various countries.

The Tupamaros said in several statements that they had nothing personal against Dr. Fly. They termed him a pawn in a struggle with the Government.

In a letter to his family last December, Dr. Fly said he was being held in a tiny wire cell "seeing no daylight, knowing no time of day or week, neither hearing nor reading current news—virtually suspended in time and space."

In letters in January and last month, a \$1-million ransom was demanded for Dr. Fly. After

the first letter, the State Department disclosed that the United States Government had refused to pay this ransom, in line with its policy of supporting the adamant Uruguayan stand against accepting the Tupamaros' demands.