

*The Jersey Journal*  
Novo Jailed Sat. - Sept. 27 - '69

## Cuban Freedom Fighter Will Appeal Sentence

An anti-Castro Cuban refugee, who claimed he has been "persecuted by the FBI", is appealing his two-to-three-year State Prison term for violation of probation. Guillermo Novo, 29, was sentenced yesterday by Hudson County Judge Sol Schulman on grounds he violated probation by being arrested May 20 by the FBI on a charge of conspiring to blow up Cuban government property in Canada.

WHEN Novo and his lawyers protested sentencing while his federal case is still pending, Judge Schulman recalled how, in imposing two years probation on the defendant, April 5, 1968, he spoke to the defendant "man-to-man — like a Dutch uncle, warning him to stay out of trouble. In that case, Novo and a brother, Ignacio, 28, of New York City, were placed on probation after pleading guilty to possession of explosives in a shoe store they formerly operated at 773 Bergen Ave., Jersey City.

Guillermo Novo's arrest by the FBI last May was on the specific charge of violating the U.S. Neutrality Act by conspiring to blow up the Cuban consulate and that country's trade commission building in Montreal.

IN a July 1 hearing, Judge Schulman held that Novo violated terms of his Hudson County probation by being arrested in New York by the FBI, who claimed they heard him planning with other persons to blow up the Cuban buildings in Canada. He gave his address at that time as 583 55th St., West New York.

"In my belief, all this started with the missile crisis in Cuba in 1962, Novo told the court. He said the United States and Russia made an agreement of non-interference in Cuba, claiming this hampered groups seeking to liberate that country.

THE defendant further charged that many anti-Castro Cubans have been armed by the CIA, but he had confined his activities to speech making for

Cuban liberation advocates.

While having respect for the courts, Novo explained, he found it "shocking" to be sentenced after being found guilty here while the federal charge is pending.

He also told the judge that "rapists, dope-pushers and thieves are allowed to go out on bail," but he was not. (He is being held without bail in the county jail, pending the appeal.)

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER, a leader of the Black Panthers, was not sentenced in California till other charges against him were disposed of, Novo claimed.

Irwin Waldman and Paul Lampert, Novo's lawyers, told the court that it is necessary to have him free so they can confer with him in connection with the federal case. They said it is "unfortunate" he was being sentenced now, while the federal charge is pending.

Waldman added, "We can't bring out a lot of things at this time," but they involve the federal government, the CIA and FBI.

A SERIES of motions, some aimed at opening secret CIA files, are scheduled to be argued by his lawyers in Federal Court, Newark, Oct. 14.

Judge Schulman told them that "regardless of what sympathies you, or even the court, might have," Novo could be endangering lives with his activities. He said the court has a duty to protect the public and discretionary power in violation-of-probation cases, regardless of whether the defendant is innocent or guilty of the other charges.

Novo and his brother, Ignacio, were convicted in 1964 for the bazooka shelling of the UN Building while Fidel Castro was inside, but their conviction was upset by the U.S. Supreme Court.