Cuban Revolt

He Aided Castro, Dope Seller Says

MEXICO CITY — (UPI) — Maximino Evellio Moya Diaz, alleged Cuban member of an international narcotics ring, testified here Wednesday that part of the gang's profits went to aid the "26th of July" revolutionary movement of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Moya Diaz, a onetime Miami, Fla., resident and more recently from Palmira in the Cuban province of Las Villas, said the cash from the smuggled narcotics was sent to Dr. Manuel Urrutia, first president of the revolutionary government chosen by Castro.

The Cuban was charged by Mexican authorities with being a member of a ring that had hemisphere - wide operations. His preliminary hearing was held Wednesday.

He was one of a group of 20, including four women, who were arrested here last week. Most of them contended they were innocent of any narcotics handling and only were acquaintances of the alleged ringleaders.

Moya Diaz also said a smaller percentage of the profits from the narcotics sales was distributed to Cuban exiles in Mexico while ousted Dictator Fulgencio Batista was president.

The defendant said he had obtained a Mexican passport under an assumed name and had made several trips to Cuba to bring back cocoa leaves which were processed here into cocaine. His testimony, as well as that of the 19 others in the arrested group, tended to implicate some Mexican government officials of previous administrations who allegedly aided ring members to remain in Mexico illegally.

Moya Diaz said he set up the narcotics ring's drug refinery laboratory here disguised as a chicken ranch, and that one room of the ranch was used to put false linings in suitcases for smuggling operations.

Moya Diaz admitted he was a friend of Arnaldo Barona Boada, another Cuban under arrest here who was described as the chauffeur and right-hand man of the Cuban gang leader, Luis Zuloaga Cordova, also known by 10 other names.

Barona said he had lived in Miami 10 years ago, and had worked on the ferryboat Florida that operated between the U.S. and Cuba.