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CUBA TO FREE LAST 27 U.S. PRISONERS

Chicagoan to Be in Group

EXILE UNITY URGED
Atty. Gen. Kennedy urges unity among Cuban refugees. Sen. Thurmond (D., S. C.) charges United States lacks policy on Cuba. Stories on page 3.

BY ALAN ONLEY
HAVANA, Cuba, April 21

(Reuters)—The last Americans imprisoned here for anti-state crimes will be released and leave Havana by air tomorrow with James B. Donovan, American lawyer, it was announced today.

The announcement was made by Swiss Ambassador Emil Stodelhofer who said Donovan visited him earlier in the day and gave him the news. The Swiss look after United States interests here in the absence of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington.

Among the Americans to be released is Leonard L. Schmidt 24, of 3308 Union av., Chicago. Schmidt was under a 30 year prison sentence by the Cuban communist regime.

Back to Miami Today

Donovan has been negotiating the release of 20 Americans, six Cuban-Americans, and a Canadian in prison here.

Donovan's announcement was first disclosed in New York by



Donovan (left) and Schmidt

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Leonard A. Scheele, former United States surgeon general, who provided information to a breaker meeting of Roman Catholic bishops.

A spokesman for Donovan in New York said he will return from Havana to Miami tomorrow with the freed Americans.

The spokesman also said the 8,185-ton United States freighter American Surveyor which arrived in Havana today with exchange goods for the prisoners freed last year, will carry 1,000 Cubans to the United States on its return voyage.

Send 1,000 Cots

The Swiss spokesman said the American Surveyor's cargo first must be unloaded and then it must be fitted for passengers. The American Red Cross flew in 1,000 cots and blankets to assist the travelers.

Donovan arrived here yesterday aboard a Red Cross DC-6 plane for the negotiations. The American and Cuban-Americans were serving sentences for crimes against the state—"counter-revolutionary activities."

Donovan also expected to discuss the possibility of renewing a weekly Red Cross air shuttle service bringing in exchange goods and flying out refugees. This service was suspended early in April.

Named by Washington

The prisoners on a list released in Washington April 17th includes:

- Austin S. Young Jr. of Miami, a photographer, the father of two children and a former United States army officer. He was charged with helping anti-Castro forces in western Cuba.
- Six men seized on a yacht in Havana harbor Jan. 7, 1961, and accused of sending arms to counter-revolutionaries. They are: Thomas L. Baker, Dathan, Ala.; James E. Beck, Cedar Falls, N. C.; George R. Beck, Norton, Mass.; Leonard Schmidt, Chicago; Alfred E. Gibson, Durham, N. C.; and Donald Joe Greene, New York.
- Lessie N. Bradley of Minneapolis, a stylized soldier of fortune accused of taking over to embarrass the Castro regime with a fake invasion of Nicaragua staged from Cuba.
- Eckhard Teronsky of New York City; James Danbrunt of Baltimore and Daniel Campbell of Rochester, N. Y., charged with spying on Red China's news agency in Cuba.
- Isafoel del Pino of Miami, a native Cuban but a naturalized United States citizen, reportedly shot down in a plane while dropping leaflets over Cuba.
- Richard Allen Pecora of Staten Island, N. Y., charged with joining counter-revolutionary forces; John Robert Gentile of Lago, O., imprisoned on charges of plotting to kidnap Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos.
- Others are Joaquin Angel Ossario, Cuba; Gerardo Rodriguez-Fernandez, Cuba; Joseph Anthony Sanchez, New York; John M. Santillo, San Pedro, Calif.; Angel Francisco Trujillo of Cuba; Jack O'Jawa, New York City; Ramon Williams, Cuba; and Doris Fernandez Probes Bella, Cuba.
- Also listed but without home towns are Pedro Fuentes Cid, Antonio Garcia Crews, Juan N. J. Garcia, and Alberto Herman

Cuba Gets Property

Donovan was not expected to have any trouble arranging for a full quota of refugee passengers for the American Surveyor when it returns to Miami Saturday.

The government stands to profit heavily from each Cuban who leaves the country.

Under revolutionary law all belongings of departing Cubans becomes the property of the state. Before leaving they must surrender all deeds and prove they have paid their electric and telephone bills.

The departure of these persons, who are regarded as not posing security risks from Premier Fidel Castro's point of view, also lightens the load on Cuba's staggering economy.

Donovan also held out hope for other political prisoners in Cuba.

HIRSCH GRADUATE

Schmidt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Davis, 3308 Union

Schmidt's parents said they have not heard from their son since he left home "for a cup of coffee" in late December, 1960. The Cuban government reported he was captured sailing into Havana harbor with "Yankee invaders" in January, 1961.

Schmidt, a graduate of Hirsch high school, was then believed to have been imprisoned on the Isle of Pines with a number of political prisoners. He was a Chicagoan who had been in Miami prior to his capture, but his parents said

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