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21 Americans Freed by Castro

Group Flown To Air Base Near Miami

One Not Released, Three Others Go To South America

MIAMI, Fla., April 22 (AP). —Twenty-one Americans, most of them sentenced to Cuban prisons on counter-revolutionary charges, were freed today by Prime Minister Fidel Castro. They flew to Florida in a Red Cross-chartered plane.

Not all the Americans known to be held in Cuba came back. Mrs. Rafael Del Pino, wife of one of the men expected to return, broke into tears when the last man left the plane at Homestead Air Force Base south of here.

"I got a letter from Mr. Donovan saying my husband was certain to be on the list," she sobbed.

Mr. Del Pino, a Cuban native but a naturalized United States citizen, was shot down while attempting to land in the island near Havana in July, 1959. The Cuban government declared that he was trying to fly to the United States.

Donovan Also Returns

James B. Donovan, New York attorney who negotiated with Premier Castro for release of the Americans, returned with them, completing what he said would be his last mercy mission to the Communist-dominated island.

"What happened? What happened?" Mrs. Del Pino cried.

Mr. Donovan said Mr. Del Pino had not been released. He said three other Americans elected to fly to South America rather than return to the United States, but he declined to identify them. And he expressed hope for the early release of Cuban-born American citizens still held.

"I discussed this with Castro and am hopeful that things soon will be straightened out," Mr. Donovan said. "In addition, several hundred Cuban political prisoners may be freed before long."

Mrs. Del Pino held in her arms a two-year-old daughter, Melc, who has never seen her father. She last saw her husband July 25, 1959, while she was still in Cuba. The couple also has a 12-year-old son, Rafael, jr.

One Rushed to Hospital

The moment the plane landed, Richard Allen Pecoraro, 30, of Staten Island, N. Y., was taken off and rushed by ambulance to a hospital. Most of the men appeared to be in good condition, however.

Another who walked in vain was Leopold Fuentes, 53, who had been in the same prison as Pedro Fuentes Cid, 24, in

a morning newspaper and was "very happy" in the belief that he would be released from a 30-year prison term.

"But they say he's not coming now," the father said, sadly.

Enso Bighinatti, Red Cross representative who went to Cuba and returned on today's flight, said he did not know the reason why six of the 27 Americans known to be in Cuban prisons did not return.

Waiting for Long Time

Austin F. Young, jr., former United States Army colonel convicted of attempting to form an anti-Castro army in the hills of Pinar Del Rio Province, said he had been in prison six days short of four years when he was freed.

"I feel very good," said the lean, blond adventurer. "I have been waiting for this a long time."

Mr. Young said he first was sentenced to death but the sentence was reduced to 30 years.

Donald Joe Greene of Gastonia, N. C., declared that "words can't express my feelings on being back among friendly people." He said his weight had dropped from 240 to 165 pounds during his imprisonment.

Like the others, Mr. Greene declined comment on treatment received in Cuban prisons, but he said the Americans often were carried out "for some real little little duties."