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TWO AMERICAN WOMEN FREED

33 Americans May Yet Leave Cuba

HOMESTEAD AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., March 16 (UPI)—James B. Donovan, the New York attorney who brought two American prisoners back from Cuba yesterday, said he hopes to gain release of the estimated 33 other Americans held in Cuban jails.

Mr. Donovan and the two women whose release he obtained arrived here from Havana on a special plane.

CONFIDENT

"I am confident that within the next few weeks I can prove that the nine American skindivers arrested by Castro several weeks ago were not saboteurs but were shipwrecked and should be released," Mr. Donovan said.

He said "about 35" Americans, including the two women released yesterday and the skindivers, were Castro's prisoners.

The women are Mrs. Martha O'Neal of Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Geraldine Shirna, of Boston, Mass.

"These are the only two American ladies who were held prisoners," Mr. Donovan said.

He said he visited 17 American prisoners on the Isle of Pines, a Cuban offshore island, Saturday afternoon, and talked to others in Havana yesterday. He said he spent three hours talking with the skindivers.

TREATMENT

Mrs. O'Neal, who told news men she was married at the time of her arrest, she was taken into custody because a Cuban skindiver claimed I had some illegal contacts in Miami.

charges since early 1960, when the Castro regime began its crack-down on American residents.

She said she was given only token legal representation at her trial but was treated "nicely" in prison.

"I'm going to be the best American citizen ever," Mrs. O'Neal said. "I can thank God for this and I can thank Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Donovan and even Mr. Castro, who let me go."

Mrs. Shirna, about 50, said she owned a home in Cuba before her arrest but has no plans to get it back "because I wouldn't go back there for a million dollars."

She said she was arrested in March, 1960 and charged with counter-revolutionary activities.

Mr. Donovan said he saw the skindivers at the request of Castro, "who said the men had been without counsel for six weeks."

CONDITIONS

The full release of the Americans still held depends on the continued shipment of key Cuban raw materials.

"I have not yet delivered 75 per cent of the total raw materials," he said. "I hope to get it done by the next six weeks."

The Americans sailed from Miami Feb. 23 on a commercial fishing expedition. They were picked up on a beach in Cuba.

The other prisoners have been arrested on various

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