

# Acquitted Suspect: I Was a Spy OF CIA AND UN BAZOOKA

By Maurice C. Carroll  
and Robert Parrella

*Of The Herald Tribune Staff*

After the charge against him for firing a bazooka shell toward the United Nations building was dismissed, Julio Perez stood in a courthouse corridor yesterday and told about spying in Cuba for the CIA.

As an ensign in the Castro Navy, he had been asked by a CIA man in 1959 to "gather information about a construction project near La Dominica," he said.

"We thought at the time they were building an offshore base which could be used for refueling Soviet submarines. It was, we found out later a missile base."

Slender and soft-spoken, Mr. Perez told his tale in heavily accented English outside a Queens courtroom where a judge had just thrown out charges against him and two others for the weird bazooka-shell firing at the UN headquarters last December.

His self-claimed CIA status had ended, according to Mr. Perez' story, long before he and two friends took a rocket launcher they had bought for \$35 in a Times Square store, planted it on a debris-littered Queens pier and fired a deadly shell from it toward the UN building last Dec. 11. The missile plopped loudly but harmlessly into the East River.

## BACKING

But the CIA story was a strange one and it had some official backing. In court before Justice J. Irwin Shapiro, a detective had been asked about the Perez claim to have been a CIA employee and replied that, checked out by police, it turned out to be true.

Whatever sources the police use to check out things like that proved unavailable to newspapers. "No comment," said the man at the CIA office in Washington.

Mr. Perez and his friends, Guillermo and Ignacia Novo, brothers, appeared briefly before Judge Shapiro yesterday to hear the case against them dismissed.

The case was based almost entirely on their own "confessions" and, in line with the new restrictions on such self-incriminating statements, Judge Shapiro had ruled a week ago that the confessions must be "destroyed and expunged" because the defendants' lawyer was not permitted to be present when they were taken.

Yesterday the judge turned to assistant District Attorney Morton Greenspan. "Give me your honest opinion," he said.

"Excluding the confessions, is there sufficient evidence to charge these defendants?"

"There is not," said Mr. Greenspan.

In the corridor, Mr. Perez told, about working for the CIA. "I volunteered," he said. "So did others."

Somehow, he said, the word got out and a group was rounded up by the Castro security people. They were questioned for several days, Mr. Perez said. Then:

"Ten of us, including me, were taken into a courtyard and put before a firing squad. We were told we had one last chance to talk or else we were going to die. No one talked. They fired at us.

"But it was blanks. But two of the men talked after that.

"I was so unnerved I had a nervous breakdown. I still didn't talk but I spent five months in a hospital."

How had the CIA approached him? "I don't think I better tell you that,"



Julio Carlos Perez

How had he gotten out of Cuba? "In 1960. Friends helped me get a passport in a fake name. Then I flew on a commercial airliner to Miami."

Things were uneventful for awhile. Mr. Perez got a job as a teletype technician and eventually settled down at 247 Audubon Ave. in Manhattan, with his wife and small child.

Eleven days after the UN shelling, Mr. Perez and the Novo brothers were picked up, but their lawyer, Peter James Johnson, told Judge Shapiro last week, the Queens District Attorney's office had refused to let him be present when statements were taken from his clients.

After, the Judge threw out the case, Mr. Greenspan said outside court there would be an appeal.

Mr. Perez, before he started talking about the CIA, commented on the case, too. "I feel very proud of American justice," he said.

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