

Tupamaro Leader Shot and Captured

By The Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Sept. 1—Raúl Sendic, founder of the Tupamaro guerrilla movement, was shot and captured by the police today.

An official announcement said that a combined force of policemen and soldiers had found the 47-year-old Mr. Sendic and two other guerrillas in an old house in Montevideo's port area.

The two others, a man and a woman, surrendered, the police said, but Mr. Sendic was said to have shouted: "I'm Rufo! I'm Rufo and I won't surrender alive!" Rufo is Mr. Sendic's code name in the Marxist-oriented guerrilla movement. A gunfight ensued and Mr. Sendic was shot in the head, the announcement said, and taken to a hospital for emergency surgery. His condition was described as critical. The authorities did not say how they had found Mr. Sendic's hide-out.

The two other guerrillas with him were identified as Miss Xenia Ite Gonzalez, 30 years old, and Jorge Bernardo Ramada Piendibeni, about 30.

Mr. Sendic's wife, Violeta, and their three children live in exile in Chile.

Seem to Be Losing

His capture comes at a moment when the urban guerrillas appear to be losing their battle with the authorities. Since mid-April, when the Uruguayan Army joined the police to fight the guerrilla movement, more than 1,000 Tupa-

maros have been captured. Hundreds of weapons, caches of supplies and hide-outs have been discovered.

Forty-three people have been killed in the fighting since April. Of the 43, 20 were Tupamaros and the others were soldiers, policemen and civilians who were caught up accidentally in gunfire.

Many of the captured guerrillas are young professional people—teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers—from middle- and upper-class families.

Mr. Sendic quit law school to join the Socialist party in the late nineteen-fifties. After two election defeats, however, he left the party and went to the countryside to organize impoverished sugar workers, leading them in strikes and other acts of rebellion in 1960 and 1961.

He became a hero among peasants during that period and photographs of him, usually from a police poster, can be found today hanging on the walls of some peasant huts.

Named for Inca Chief

"Tupamaro" is a contraction of Tupac Amaro, an Inca chief who opposed the Spanish in Peru in the 18th century and whose name has been used by various revolutionary groups in Latin America. It was in July, 1963, that Mr. Sendic led the first Tupamaro raid, with six companions. They seized rifles from a gun club in a rural town 80 miles from Montevideo.

The police, at the time, thought the raid was the work

of common thieves. Only years later did the Tupamaros themselves reveal that that raid had been the start of a guerrilla movement that was to become the best-known and most successful in Latin America.

Between 1967 and last April authorities were unable to stop the Tupamaros' almost-daily terrorist activities, which included bombings, robberies, kidnappings, and constant propaganda in favor of a Marxist government.

Kidnapping, Then Capture

Mr. Sendic was captured on Aug. 7, 1970, with other Tupamaro leaders with whom he was meeting in an apartment building in downtown Montevideo. Hours earlier, the Tupamaros had kidnapped Claude L. Fly, an American agronomist working in Montevideo.

A week earlier, they had kidnapped Dan A. Mitrione, a United States adviser to the Uruguayan police force, and Aloysio Mares Dias Gomides, second secretary of the Brazilian Embassy here.

Mr. Mitrione was shot to death in a Tupamaro execution Aug. 10 after the Uruguayan government refused to meet the Tupamaros' demand that 150 political prisoners be released. Mr. Fly and Mr. Dias Gomides were released months later.

On Sept. 6, 1971, Mr. Sendic was among 100 Tupamaros leaders who staged a spectacular tunnel escape from Punta Carretas Prison, through a tunnel dug from the prison to a house nearby.