

Alpha 66 Leading Fight

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MIAMI (AP) — Alpha 66, a militant Cuban exile group, said Monday it had “several guerrilla groups in different parts of Cuba” fighting against Fidel Castro’s regime.

“Alpha 66 has started the war,” said Andres Nazario, secretary-general of the organization.

Earlier a spokesman for the group said raiders went ashore “to start guerrilla warfare in all the mountains of Cuba, beginning with the Sierra Maestra.”

It was in the Sierra Maestra, in Oriente Province, that Castro organized his successful revolution against President Fulgencio Batista in the 1950’s.

Nazario told a news conference that many men (already are inside Cuba, “and others won’t be long in getting there.”

He said the leader was a long-time revolutionary, Capt. Vicente Mendez.

Nazario summarized Havana radio’s account of two battles placing the Castro forces’ death toll at four and the counter-revolutionaries at two. He declared:

“This is not a small isolated action, but the result of a perfect plan already on the march.”

Nazario said: “The contingents of Alpha 66 inside Cuba are divided into two basic groups. Moreover, there are several other guerrilla nuclei.”

The guerrilla fronts are called Julio Cesar Ramirez and Everardo Salas. Ramirez drowned early in January when a band of 15, including some of the same combatants, foundered in rough seas in an earlier attempted landing. Salas was captured by Castro forces in a previous Alpha 66 landing.

“Our forces are not of the CIA,” Nazario said. “Nor are they from the American government, nor reactionaries, nor mercenaries.”

The forces, the revolutionary

leader said, are confronting Castro troops “without intervention of any world power.”

They set out for Cuba from an unidentified friendly nation, but not from the United States, he added.

The number and location of the invaders cannot be disclosed, he added. He said they were excellently equipped.

Nazario called on members of the Cuban armed forces, students, workers, farmers and government officials to join the Alpha 66 forces.

“Our guns are not pointing against the people, but against the Sovietized imperialist traitor,” he added.