

John Chamberlain

THE DARK PAST OF CASTRO

The story brought to Mexico by Juana Castro, Fidel's sister, which stressed the degradation of Cuba under the Communists, is sordid enough in all conscience.

But it is only the social and economic extension, so to speak, of a festering family saga that rivals some of the dark legends of ancient Greece for its Freudian hatreds and evil doings.

Fidel Castro hated his father. Fidel was one of a brood that was born out of wedlock. His mother, a practical lady named Alma Ruz Gonzalez, was the family cook - and Fidel, along with some of his brothers and sisters, was only legitimized after his father's first wife had died.

A Long Quarrel

Juana and another sister, Emma, came along after the cook had become the legally married mother.

The bad blood among the Castros caused by quarrels over legitimacy long pre-dates the revolution.

However, though Alma Ruz Gonzalez loved her sons Fidel and Raul as her offspring, she always hated their Marxism. She even referred to them as "lazy Socialist bums".

And she had the temerity to say, even after the revolution, that she liked the old dictator Batista for having spared her son's life when a death penalty for treasonable activity might have been declared against Fidel.

Juana Castro is not the first sister of Fidel to defect to Mexico. When sister Emma wanted to go to Mexico to be married, Che Guevara, the Communist economic czar of Cuba, refused to give her the necessary foreign exchange. It was only after Juana and her mother made a terrific family issue out of it that Emma was permitted to depart.

Assassination Plot

Meanwhile the Cuban refugees continue to have bad luck in their attempts to rid their homeland of the Muscovite plague.

The guerrilla invasion of Manuel Ray, scheduled for May 20, had been timed to coincide with an assassination attempt on Castro from inside the Cuban National Police.

But the assassins' plans miscarried. Samuel Rodiles, aide to the Cuban chief of police, had to flee the country in a motorboat.

He is now being held incommunicado in the U.S. Manuel Ray had to call off his landing, for Castro had been thoroughly alerted to everything when Rodiles took it on the lam.

Bomb Blast Cuban's Business

MIAMI (AP) — A bomb blast night here was a very successful three bomb explosion and estimated \$200,000 damage in the Florida Department of Justice. Domestics... ban exits... transportation... country.

Domestics... group of Cuban... in Miami.

placed... at the fear of the...

hearing... scheduled in Washington Oct. 15 for allegedly violating an order prohibiting him from leaving the country. Domestics led a party of exiles to Cuba recently to seek the release of political prisoners.

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Leader of Small-Boat Flotilla Again Cancels Cuba Mission

MIAMI, Sept. 7—The exile leader of a projected mercy flotilla to Cuba capitulated to the U.S. Government today and called off this expedition for the second time in two days.

Ramon Donestevez, a 31-year-old exile boat builder, had faced the possibility of five years in prison and a \$5000 fine if he sailed.

Donestevez left Miami's anxious Cuban colony confused with his on-again, off-again announcements about plans to sail a flotilla of perhaps 80 small boats from the Florida Keys into Camaroca, Cuba, to rescue political prisoners. He was counting on the Castro regime releasing the prisoners when he got there.

After canceling and then rescheduling the trip, Doneste-

vez met privately with Henry Taylor, head of the State Department's Cuban Affairs Office in Miami.

When he emerged he said the flotilla was cancelled, until further notice.

The exile, who said his boat building firm has sold "some" of the vessels, which refugees planned to use, told newsmen: "I was told that not only

would I be prosecuted but that the flotilla would not be permitted to leave."

Federal authorities had indicated this earlier by seizing one flotilla boat for "improper papers."

Donestevez also suggested the Castro regime "might have informed the United States" that it did not want the flotilla to come, but official sources rejected this suggestion.

The Castro regime has completely ignored Donestevez.

After conferring with Taylor, Donestevez filed an appeal for an immigration hearing which he hopes will result in the lifting of the "restraining order" against him. The hearing probably will take place within two weeks.

Appetites Are Whetted

DENVER, Sept. 7 (AP)—Appetites in the children's ward at Colorado General Hospital have zoomed since the usual steam delivery cart was converted into a ranch-type chuckwagon complete with canvas canopy resembling the pioneer covered wagon.