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Venezuela Invaded By Castro Force

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Fidel Castro may have to answer to his Kremlin backers for landing a Cuban-led guerrilla force in Venezuela at a time when the Soviet Union is seeking expanded trade ties with this booming South American nation.

In fact, when the landing occurred last Monday, Soviet trade officials were attending an economic conference near Caracas and plugging what they termed the advantages of trade with the Communist bloc in Europe.

Venezuelan army troops intercepted the force and captured two Cuban army officers. A third Cuban officer was killed and a fourth drowned while a Cuban-trained band of Venezuelan guerrillas escaped into the mountains, according to a government announcement Friday.

Oil-rich Venezuela — the most economically advanced country in Latin America — has no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and it is not likely there will be any so long as the Kremlin continues to prop up the Castro regime in Cuba.

Venezuela considers Castro its worst enemy and as a Venezuelan government official remarked last week: "Those trad-

ing with the enemy are not wholly friendly to us."

While the Russians made it plain they would like to tap this bountiful market, the government of President Raul Leoni has indicated it is not interested in trading with any nation that trades with Cuba. It often scolds Western and nonaligned nations that do so.

Only last Tuesday, before the disclosure of the landing, Victor Volsky, chief Soviet observer at the Venezuelan meeting of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America, joined East-bloc observers in launching a minor offensive for more trade with Venezuela.