

# CUBAN REBEL BOAT IS SEIZED IN MIAMI

U.S. Matches British Capture of Vessel Armed for Raid

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WASHINGTON, April 2 — The United States disclosed today that a Cuban rebel raiding boat was seized in Miami last Sunday just as a British force was capturing another armed vessel belonging to an exile group.

Apparently there was no direct connection between the expeditions. The yacht *Allisan* was seized in Miami and the motor launch *Violin III* was taken into custody at Norman Key in the Exuma Islands. Both of the craft presumably were planning to attack Soviet shipping in and around Cuba.

A third vessel was said by rebel sources in Miami to be cruising somewhere in the vicinity of Cuba in search of a target after escaping the British-United States trap that caught the *Violin III*.

A British naval and Bahamas

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police force captured 16 Cuban raiders and one United States citizen after having received information from United States authorities that the heavily armed *Violin III* would seek to refuel on the key before its planned attack on a Soviet tanker.

## Cuban Protests Raids

Despite the seizure of the *Allisan*, the Cuban Government apparently took no immediate cognizance of the new United States steps against the raiders. A diplomatic note from Havana delivered this afternoon at the State Department urged that a halt be put to the attacks "lest the situation get out of hand."

*Violin III*, which will be released by the British authorities after repairs in Nassau, was armed with a 9-mm. cannon and two heavy machine-guns armed with explosive bullets.

According to Joseph Fortier, supervising customs agent in Miami, the *Allisan* was equipped with a 20-mm. cannon and bombs with magnets.

The tightening of United States restrictions on these free-lance activities by foes of Premier Fidel Castro, led to a reported decision today by some of the exiled leaders to cancel temporarily their forays while perfecting new techniques to escape detection.



Associated Press Wirephoto

**CUBAN EXILES HELD IN NASSAU;** Members of the anti-Castro group that was seized Sunday by British authorities, in a boat owned by an American, at court yesterday in the capital of the Bahamas. Sixteen Cubans were held for a seven-day investigation. The group, which was described as a raiding party, included a U. S. citizen, freed on bail.

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The Czechoslovak Ambassador to Washington, Miloslav Ruzek, who delivered the Cuban note to Robert Hurwich, acting head of the Administration's Cuba Coordinating Committee, said that the Havana regime was concerned by the "seriousness of the situation" in which rebel boats had been attacking Soviet ships.

## Two Attacks Recorded

Two such attacks were carried out last month against Soviet freighters anchored in Cuban ports. It was the second attack, March 26, that led the Administration to formulate last week-end the stringent measures to prevent the raids.

While reporting today the seizure of *Violin III* by the British force, the Havana radio refrained from mentioning that the action was based on information supplied by the United States and that a British-United States cooperative system had been established to police the Caribbean.

The main object of the diplomatic note from Havana was to formalize its apology to the United States for last Thursday's attack by Cuban

MIG jet fighters on the American freighter *Floridian*.

The jets fired cannon and machine-gun bursts over the freighter, but did not hit her. Although the Cubans had advised Washington within hours of the attack that the MIG's had acted in error, the United States requested a full explanation of the incident.

This was provided in the note presented by the Czech Ambassador in his capacity of representative of the Government in charge of Cuban interests here.

Mr. Ruzek said that the Cuban Government had promised in the note to take all measures to prevent any such incidents in the future and that it expressed its regrets for last Thursday's event.

## Nassau Jails Exiles

NASSAU, Bahamas, April 2 (AP) — Sixteen Cuban exiles who set out last week on a raiding mission against Cuba were sent to jail today for seven days pending investigation by British colonial authorities.

The rebels were charged with the possession of firearms without license in Bahamas waters.

Six of the men, including Evelio Duque, the commander of the band, pleaded guilty before Magistrate John Bailly. Ten pleaded innocent. A 17th raider, Jerry Buchanan, an American from Miami, pleaded guilty to an illegal entry charge.

The police prosecutor, Wilton Boyd, said that Mr. Buchanan was released in \$70 bond and his case was adjourned on condition that he leave the Bahamas by Friday.