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U.S. STRENGTHENS CHECK ON RAIDERS

6 Planes and 12 Boats Sent to Waters Near Cuba

By The Associated Press
WASHINGTON, April 5—The United States is throwing more planes, ships and men into its effort to police the straits of Florida against anti-Castro raiders operating from this country.

Coast Guard headquarters announced today that it had ordered six more planes and 12 more boats into the Seventh District to reinforce the patrols already assigned to the Florida-Puerto Rico area.

The shift in manpower, first reported in Florida two days ago, involves 20 officers and 168 men.

The action followed the Government's announcement last weekend that it intended to "take every step necessary" to halt commando raids from United States territory against Cuba and Soviet ships bound for Cuba.

En route or already in the Seventh District were six more patrol boats, which ordinarily carry crews of 10 to 16 officers and men each, and six more small boats, normally manned by crews of six each, in addition to six more aircraft.

They are joining a force of four larger ships, 10 patrol boats, 22 small craft and 18 planes under orders of the Seventh District commander.

The four large ships are up to 255 feet in length, while patrol boats measure from 82 to 95 feet in length and small craft from 30 to 40 feet.

Coast Guard headquarters said that the reinforcements were being sent in to help enforce the laws that apply to

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"Cuba-bound raiding vessels" and to "apprehend persons suspected of aggressive intelligence against Cuba" in violation of the neutrality act.

The laws involved include those dealing with licenses required for the export of arms and ammunition, and cargo regulations for explosives and other dangerous materials, as well as the Neutrality Act.

President Kennedy said at his news conference Wednesday that hit-and-run raids against Cuba might help rather than hurt Premier Fidel Castro.

"We don't think a rather hastily organized raid which may be shoots up a merchant ship or kills some crewmen... represents a serious blow to Castro, and, in fact, may assist him in maintaining his control," Mr. Kennedy said.

The President declared that the cause of Cuban refugees would be better advanced by actions like the enlistment in the United States Army of 400 or 500 Bay of Pigs invasion veterans.

The Defense Department reported today that approximately 3,000 Cubans, including the Bay of Pigs veterans, were now training in the United States armed forces. They are being assigned to various Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force units as they complete their training.

United States authorities have expressed concern that commando raids by Cuban refugees would provide justification for the continued presence of Soviet military forces in Cuba.

The exact number of Russian troops and technicians still in Cuba was described as a mystery today by Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi.

"Nobody knows the answers," he said after a closed session of his Armed Services Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee.

"We intend to keep close surveillance," he added, also declaring that "we plan an interim report on the intelligence aspects shortly."

Crew Gives Up in Miami

MIAMI, April 5 (AP)—A frustrated little anti-Castro raiding boat slipped into Miami today, but its sister craft may

yet be operating against Cuba. The *Violynn III* was minny fuel, machine guns and 20 millimeter cannon when it turned up, ending an extensive Coast Guard air search for the 35-foot motorboat and its crew of 17.

A crewman swam ashore and made arrangements by telephone for the little band's surrender. Immigration officials questioned all and released two soon afterward.

Jerry Buchanan, 24, of Miami, one of the two and the expedition's only native American, told newsmen: "The weapons were disposed of. We threw them overboard."

He and a shipmate, Ramon Sanchez, a naturalized United States citizen, denied that the *Violynn III* had rendezvoused at sea with the *Omega I*, its companion on the raid that went awry last Sunday in the Bahamas. They refused to give the *Omega I*'s location except as in "international waters."

Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Sanchez were questioned and released at the Federal Department of Justice building in Miami. Their 15 fellow-raiders, all Cubans, were taken to an immigration processing facility and counsel for Mr. Buchanan said he was told these would be released tomorrow for reunion with their families.

The raiders shook off Coast Guard air surveillance in darkness last night en route from Nassau, where they had been detained by British authorities while cruising through the Bahamas on their Cuba quest.

British Chase a Group

NASSAU, the Bahamas, April 5 (UPI)—A British search party today chased five suspected anti-Castro raiders from a tiny island between Nassau and Cuba and uncovered a stock of arms and supplies.

The five men escaped in a fast boat, but British authorities here they were being pursued. They said their men apparently had left "in a hurry" a short time before.

Lieut. Col. John Pine-Coffin and Assistant Police Commissioner G. A. Lavell flew to Williams Island by amphibious plane after a group "thought to be anti-Castro Cubans" had been spotted from the air in the vicinity of a small airstrip.

They reached the island as the men were leaving. Ten minutes later, a detachment of Royal Marines and police arrived to take part in the search.

The Bahaman Government announced that the British frigate *Londonderry*, which captured the *Violynn III* last Sunday, left Nassau this morning and is "patrolling in the vicinity of the Bahamas Bank" in the general vicinity of the scene