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# Castro Fall 'Within Year' Seen by Exiles

By EDWARD J. LEPOMA

Cuban refugees in New Orleans held the opinion today that Communist Premier Fidel Castro will be overthrown by "the people" within a year.

The refugees, interviewed at the Catholic Cuban Center, 330 N. Jefferson Davis, also told of deplorable food and health conditions in Cuba, and many share the mutual hope they will one day return to a free country.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Lara, a middle-aged couple who first came to Miami last July, then settled here about a month ago, told of food rationing.

"WE GOT THREE POUNDS of rice per month for each person, \$1 worth of meat per month for seven persons."

Lara, who owned his own delivery truck in the San Antonio province of Havana, said he was forced to haul workers to the sugar fields for the Castro regime and given \$10 every 15 days.

"The people are getting tired of these conditions," Lara said. "Castro will be overthrown within a year."

Sixteen-year-old Horacio de la Serra was reunited with his mother and 8-year-old sister, Rebecca, in Miami early this month and they arrived in New Orleans yesterday.

Mrs. Theresa Diaz de la Serra said her husband remained in Cuba, virtually a prisoner in his own home. "But I hope he can come to this country soon," she said.

MRS. DE LA SERRA said her husband was in the funeral home business and also owned a small farm before the Castro takeover.

"Everything was taken," she



—States-Item photo.  
A GROUP OF CUBAN REFUGEES come to the Catholic Cuban Center, 330 N. Jefferson Davis, for assistance upon arrival in New Orleans. From left are: MR. AND MRS. ERNESTO LARA, MRS. THERESA DIAZ DE LA SERRA, daughter REBECCA, and son, HORACIO.

said. "And he has been taken to prison many times and is constantly under observation."

Teenager Horacio said an uncle in Miami paid his passage to Spain shortly after the Castro revolution.

"I would have been forced to serve the military if I would have stayed—until I was 26 years old," he said.

Horacio could stay in Spain for only about eight months because he was a minor so he went to Miami to await other members of his family.

"ALREADY a half-million people have left—out of seven million," the family said. "I would estimate over 90 per cent of the people are against Castro."

"He (Castro) will be overthrown in a year by the people and some military leaders," the family predicted.

Mrs. de la Serra said she was taken from her home and "forced to work in the fields 12 hours a day."

"Even the military is working in the fields and they are turning against Castro," she said.

The family also stressed hopes they may one day return to their country and reclaim their property.

Mrs. De la Serra also told of widespread disease in Cuba. "Before I left there was an epidemic—a type of rash that spreads over your body and infects your eyes," she said. "There were also many cases of hepatitis."