

Rally Called Tonight

News 5/20/61

Miami Cubans Protest Leader's Pending Ouster

MIAMI, May 20 (UPI) — Cuban exiles marked the 65th anniversary of Cuban independence today with growing protests against the threatened deportation of exile leader Felipe Rivero.

A scheduled independence commemoration at Miami's bayfront park tonight was expected to feature new demands for the release of the 43-year-old Bay of Pigs veteran.

Rivero, who was arrested by immigration authorities May 12, successfully avoided deportation this week by winning the right to a formal trial May 29.

His attorney, Gino Negretti, said the slender Cuban Nationalist Association leader is still on a hunger strike, which he began last Tuesday afternoon.

NO WATER

"He isn't even drinking any water," Mr. Negretti said, following Friday's hearing before immigration officials at which the trial date was set. "He's on a total fast."

But jail officials said yesterday his food trays were being returned empty and he appears in robust health.

Nineteen other Bay of Pigs veterans and a refugee woman sympathizer are also reported on a fast in support of Rivero,

according to the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association.

Other sympathizers have put up posters around the "Little Havana" section of Miami voicing the demands for Rivero's immediate release.

Handbills distributed by members of the veterans association warned exiles that "today it is Rivero who has been jailed and who may be deported from this country."

WOULD BE FIRST

If Rivero is ousted from the United States, he would be the first exile leader to suffer that fate. Presumably he would be allowed to go to an anti-communist country of his choice if that country would accept him.

"Everybody to the giant rally at Bayfront park," the handbill added. "But let us demonstrate that we are united and ready for war (against Fidel Castro)."

The charges against Rivero were made public yesterday. They comprised three counts pivoting around the assertion that Rivero's objective for remaining in this country is to "engage in activities which would be prejudicial to the public interest or endanger the welfare, safety or security of the United States."