

Leader of Small-Boat Flotilla Again Cancels Cuba Mission

MIAMI, Sept. 7—The exile leader of a projected mercy flotilla to Cuba capitulated to the U.S. Government today and called off the expedition for the second time in two days.

Ramon Donestevez, a 31-year-old exile boat builder, had faced the possibility of five years in prison and a \$5000 fine if he sailed.

Donestevez left Miami's anxious Cuban colony confused with his on-again, off-again announcements about plans to sail a flotilla of perhaps 80 small boats from the Florida Keys into Camarioca, Cuba, to rescue political prisoners. He was counting on the Castro regime releasing the prisoners when he got there.

After canceling and then rescheduling the trip, Doneste-

vez met privately with Henry Taylor, head of the State Department's Cuban Affairs Office in Miami.

When he emerged he said the flotilla was cancelled, until further notice.

The exile, who said his boat building firm has sold "some" of the vessels which refugees planned to use, told newsmen: "I was told that not only

would I be prosecuted but that the flotilla would not be permitted to leave."

Federal authorities had indicated this earlier by seizing one flotilla boat for "improper papers."

Donestevez also suggested the Castro regime "might have informed the United States" that it did not want the flotilla to come, but official sources rejected this suggestion.

The Castro regime has completely ignored Donastevez.

After conferring with Taylor, Donastevez filed an appeal for an immigration hearing which he hopes will result in the lifting of the "restraining order" against him. The hearing probably will take place within two weeks.

Appetites Are Whetted

DENVER, Sept. 7 (AP)—Appetites in the children's ward at Colorado General Hospital have zoomed since the usual steam delivery cart was converted into a ranch-type chuckwagon complete with canvas canopy resembling the pioneer covered wagon.