

Washington Studies Cuban Refugee Plan

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Fidel Castro's promise to lift Cuba's curtain for refugees was studied cautiously Wednesday in Washington and viewed in some quarters as an attempt to embarrass the United States.

The exile leaders in Miami, including the prime minister's sister, Juanita, denounced it as a trick, a trap and a propaganda stunt.

In a speech Tuesday night in Havana, Castro said any Cubans with relatives in the United States can leave the Communist island after Oct. 10 if they first notify the Interior Ministry.

Castro also said anyone in the United States, "no matter who it is," could go to the island by ship and bring relatives back "with all guarantees."

Sources in Washington said there would be no comment by the Johnson administration until a number of government agencies complete a careful scrutiny of Castro's speech.

Officials cautioned there is good reason to believe that Castro wants to designate those who will be permitted to leave

Cuba.

The officials said he always has appeared willing to get rid of people such as the old and the ill, who are a drain on his country's shaky economy.

The official version of Castro's speech, published in Havana papers, said the new exit and entry policy would put an end to "imperialist propaganda" that persons are forbidden to leave Cuba.

One possible joker in the deck is the U.S. State Department ban on travel to Cuba, which would prevent exiles in this country from going to the island for relatives.

From Havana, Associated Press correspondent Isaac M. Flores reported that in the view of some there the United States would look bad in the eyes of the world if it did not relax the travel ban.

"I know that Fidel is not sincere," said his sister, who fled Cuba by way of Mexico last year. "His announcement is a demagogic trick and a dangerous adventure."

"In giving their names to the Interior Ministry, Fidel Castro will have a census of anti-Communists, and we know, by sad experience, the tortures, persecutions and vexations suffered in Cuba by those who love freedom."

Dr. Jose Alvarez Diaz, former Cuban treasury minister and chairman of the Cuban research project at the University of Miami, said: "I think Fidel Castro is putting in practice a new strategic move to place the United States in an embarrassing situation before Latin America and the Cuban people."

Nearly 300,000 Cuban exiles already are scattered throughout the United States and more arrive every month. Most now come by small boat across waters exiles call "Death Corridor."