

# U.S. to Bar Families at

## Cuba Base

Those Still There  
To Be Withdrawn  
In Next 2 Years

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Staff Reporter

All dependents of American personnel at the Guantanamo Naval Base will be withdrawn gradually to "improve its garrison posture" and help make it self-sufficient.

The Defense Department said yesterday that military men and civilian employes assigned there from now on will not be allowed to take

*Guantanamo water cut-off called 'pinprick' to U.S. at cost of \$14,000 a month to Castro. Page A6.*

their families with them, and such women and children presently there will be returned to the United States during the next two years.

The new rule imposes stricter requirements than now apply in South Viet-Nam, Korea and Berlin, where some military men and Government civilian employes have their families.

### Pension Checks Stopped

Civil Service spokesmen confirmed a charge made by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro that the United States has stopped paying pension checks to retired workers of the Guantanamo base living in Cuba.

U.S. officials said the action was taken many months ago under the Foreign Assets Control Act, and affected "thousands" of persons in Cuba entitled to U.S. Social Security and military pension benefits as well as the retired Guantanamo Civil Service workers.

A similar total embargo

against mailing earned pension payments and other Government checks applies to Red China and North Korea, officials said. Milder restrictions against payments to persons abroad apply to other Iron Curtain countries.

### Plans for Withdrawals

Assistant Secretary of Defense Arthur Sylvester, at a news conference, announced the decision to withdraw dependents from Guantanamo, and said that about 800 of the 3000 U. S. dependents at the base will return within the next six months.

A total of 2100 probably will come out within a year and all by early 1966. The women and children will leave when their husbands or fathers are ordered to other stations. The regular military tour of duty is two years and no extensions will be granted.

To minimize the time of family separation, future tours of duty at Guantanamo will be reduced to a year or less, as is the case for "unaccompanied" military personnel at many remote bases.

No dependents at all has been the rule at some isolated

See BASE, A6, Col. 4

bases in the Arctic and Antarctic, but Guantanamo never before has been considered a hardship post for men with their families. The climate is almost ideal at some seasons, though hot at times, and as a fleet training center for ships on shakedown cruises the base offers such facilities as a golf course, swimming pools, and other recreational opportunities.

Withdrawal of the dependents will cut the base population below the current 10,500 level and ease the water situation. Cuba shut off the base's water supply last week and steps now are being taken to install a big water de-salting plant, and bring in fresh water by tenders.

Sylvester indicated, however, that the move was aimed more at improving the base's defensive position than saving water.

### Sylvester Questioned

However, when asked about unconfirmed reports from Mexico that the Castro regime

was building fortifications along the perimeter of the base, Sylvester said he had not seen any official reports of such a move. He also declared that he was unaware of any plans to build up the Marine garrison there.

During the 1962 Soviet-U.S. missile crisis involving Cuba, U.S. dependents were evacuated from Guantanamo and Marine reinforcements were flown in.

The Defense official also said that "several hundred" of the 3300 Cuban workers on the base already have been dismissed in accordance with White House orders and more will be discharged later.

President Johnson has made it plain that the U.S. has no intention of getting out of the Guantanamo base.

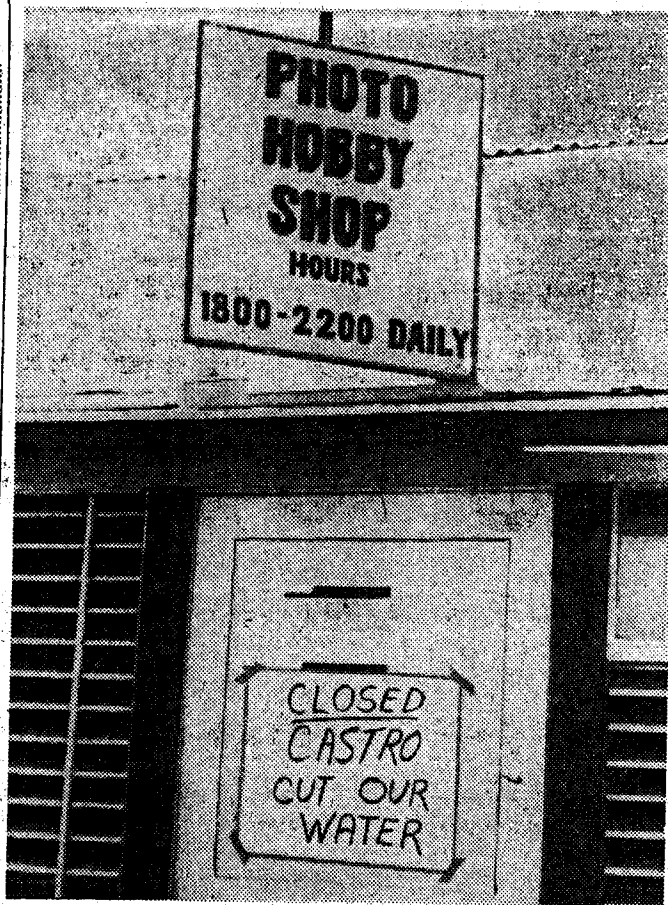
### Important in War, Peace

The Navy regards it as important in both peace and war. More than \$76 million has been spent in making Guantanamo a convenient and excellent operating base for shakedown cruises of new and overhauled ships, in an area where the weather is ideal for round-the-year training.

In war, its big, deep harbor, two airfields and all types of storage facilities would enable ships and planes to control the approaches to the Panama Canal, the narrow passages into the Caribbean, and the shiplanes to South America. It was valuable for assembling convoys in World War II, and could be again in case of armed trouble in Latin America.

If the United States had to get out of Guantanamo, addi-

tional facilities would have to be established at heavy cost in Puerto Rico. In any case, while many officials might prefer to have the U.S. not dependent on a base in Communist Cuba, the Nation could hardly give it up under pressure from Castro. It would be a major prestige defeat.



Associated Press

This picture is among the first received from the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base since Cuban Premier Castro cut off the water supply. The hobby shop was closed, in line with the Base's orders to conserve water.