

Castro Fails to Turn on Water

HAVANA, Feb. 7 (AP)—Premier Fidel Castro tempered his denial of Cuban water to the United States Guantanamo Naval Base by announcing last night the supply will flow an hour each day so "civilians including women and children" won't suffer.

(In Washington, the Defense

Department said the water "was not turned on this morning during the hours the Cuban government indicated it would be," 8 to 9 a.m.)

Castro told a conference for foreign newsmen the big base's supply from a Cuban river was turned off Thursday in retaliation for the arrest of 38 Cuban fishermen

and the seizure of four fishing boats for trespassing in Florida waters.

"Ready to Die"

"We are ready to die before accepting humiliation and blackmail," he said heatedly.

Castro also challenged Sen. Barry Goldwater to lead the Marine invasion advocated by the Arizona Republican to get the water turned on again.

The Cuban leader warned that if the United States "tries to lay its hands on water sources, we will fight to the last man and let Barry Goldwater know it. He should be in the first line of invaders."

Castro said aggressive U.S. policies had encouraged Goldwater's statement.

To cheering political rallies in southern New Hampshire last night, Goldwater said President Johnson should warn Castro to restore the

and he had hoped no "new incidents would be created."

He said that Cuba has been pursuing a "peaceful policy" toward the United States which has been answered with "an aggression based only in U.S. military might."

Castro charged that the fishermen were "forced to go into U.S.A. territorial waters" and were being detained "under pressure and are being menaced and have no lawyer." He said the "Federal Government had washed its hands like Pontius Pilate" when it turned over the fishermen to the Florida courts.

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water or "we will march out with a detachment of Marines and turn it on ourselves."

Castro told newsmen that Cuba had no desire "to harm civilians, including women and children." It therefore would provide water an hour daily but would withhold it the rest of the day from "industrial and other purposes," he said.

He said Cuba will maintain that action to "its last consequences."

Castro said the fishing boats were on a "peaceful mission and were unarmed." He denied U.S. charges that the boats had entered U.S. territorial waters and accused American ships and planes of repeatedly violating Cuban waters and air space.

Surprised by Arrests

Castro said the arrest of the fishermen took him by surprise since the past few months had been without in-

Cubans Say Their Boats Intruded In U.S. Waters Because of Storm

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 7 (AP)—Twenty-nine Cuban fishermen, whose arrest kindled an international furor, won't get to court till next week.

A Czech Embassy official said at Key West today he will consult with Fidel Castro's government about obtaining counsel for the men. That means the fishermen, held in Monroe County jail, must wait till next week to enter pleas on charges of fishing illegally in Florida waters.

Meanwhile, captains of the four vessels were allowed to talk to the press for the first time. They said they sailed into U.S. waters because a norther, a sudden storm common on the Gulf of Mexico, was announced by the radio.

"We had to take refuge at the Dry Tortugas," said Capt. Manuel Gomez. "Large waves were already forming."

The account jibed with the

one given by one of the two defectors. The other said the fishermen had been instructed to sail into U.S. waters.

Seven juveniles on the four fishing boats rounded up by the Coast Guard Sunday off the Dry Tortugas Islands, 65 miles west of here, were turned over to immigration authorities for deportation.

A Miami attorney, Ellis Rubin, said representatives of several Cuban exile groups would meet Saturday and announce proposals to exchange the fishermen for Cubans in Castro jails.

An immigration official said the juveniles would be taken to Miami immediately "for eventual transfer to Cuba."

Frantisek Telicka, First Secretary of the Czech Embassy in Washington, said after talking 1½ hours to the adult prisoners, "I must consult in order to be certain that competent counsel is obtained for them."

Telicka said decision on whether to raise bond, set at \$1000 each, also was pending.

Another captain, Jose Manuel Ventura, said the fishermen had no instructions to intrude. But he said the Swiss Embassy in Havana which handles U.S. affairs in Cuba, had advised it was legal to go near American waters, "and there there would be no problem."

The captain added, "we went near but I didn't know we would have to go inside." That sort of thing happens to fishermen throughout the world in case of bad weather, he said.

Asked how U.S. flags happened to be aboard their vessels, weather-beaten 49-year-old Jose Garcia Rodriguez, oldest member of the fishing

party replied: "We customarily have them abroad because we don't know where we will be. We also carry Mexican flags."

When apprehended, the fishermen hoisted American flags along with their own.

Ventura and Escandel said they and others arrested are Fidel Castro militiamen. The two who received U.S. asylum had said all except they were militiamen, but Spanish-born Capt. Garcia Rodriguez said he was not.

The Cubans complained they could not sleep last night because the 29 were crowded into a single cell without bunks.

"It's hard to sleep on a hard floor," commanded Escandel.

Today the prisoners were given more spacious quarters, about five to a cell.

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Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, left, is shown at yesterday's news conference. At center

is Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos, Foreign Minister Raul Roa is at right.

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