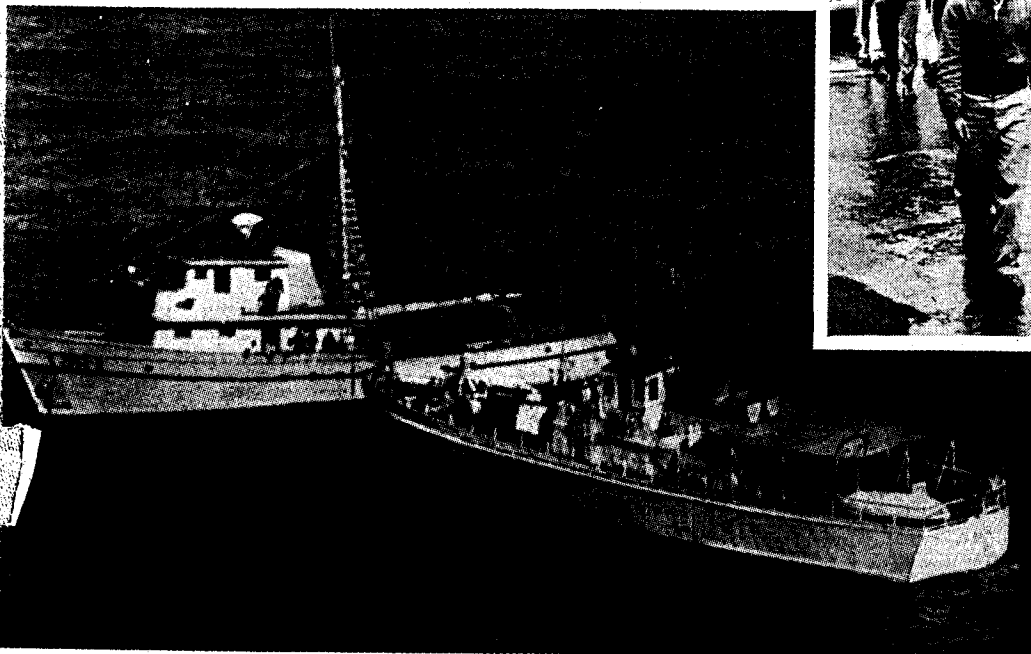


# THE HEMISPHERE



CUBAN TRAWLER (LEFT) & COAST GUARD INTERCEPTOR  
*Trivial or tempest?*

## CUBA

### The Water War

*Lambda 8*: The American ships are the CG40438 and the CG95320, both with .30-cal. machine guns, the CG95312 and a destroyer.

*Havana*: How is the enemy treating you?

*Lambda 8*: All right.

*Havana*: Keep the flag high. Cuba is with you.

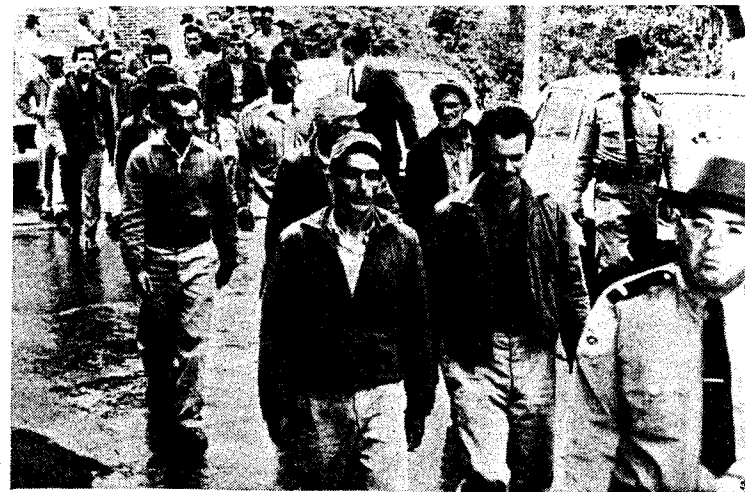
Back and forth the messages crackled, after U.S. coastguardmen boarded *Lambda 8* and three other Cuban fishing boats lying 1½ miles off the Dry Tortugas Islands, west of Key West. The boats were clearly violating the U.S. three-mile territorial limit. Ordinarily, it would be a trivial affair, worth merely a warning before sending the fishermen on their way. But it ballooned rapidly into a crisis.

**Joining the Act.** Though the boats carried no military equipment and had 5,500 lbs. of fish aboard, the Coast Guard could not be sure just what the fishermen were up to. Into Key West under escort went the tiny flotilla and its 38 crewmen. For 48 hours the men were kept aboard their boats at the Key West naval base. The captains claimed that they had been driven inshore by strong winds. But two men requested political asylum, and one of them said that the boats had been deliberately sent into U.S. waters. Washington seemed ready to let the trespassers go, but then the state of Florida leaped into the act, claiming jurisdiction under a new law prohibiting vessels of Communist powers from fishing within three miles of the state's coast. Seven youngsters between 14 and 16 years old were released for deportation home; the other 29 Cubans were

taken to Key West's Monroe County jail to await trial. Maximum penalty: six months in jail, plus \$500 fine.

**Dawning Suspicion.** In Havana, Fidel Castro accused the U.S. of "a cold war act of aggression," while Cuba's men at the U.N. stormed about a new confrontation as dire as the 1962 missile crisis. In reprisal, Castro shut off the water that Cuba has been supplying to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay in eastern Cuba. Guantánamo's fresh water comes from a pumping station on the Yateras River four miles from the base, is paid for by the U.S. at the rate of \$14,000 a month. The Cubans have kept the pumps going without interruption, even during the Bay of Pigs invasion and the missile crisis; but now, said Castro, there would be water for only one hour a day until the fishermen were released.

At worst, the cutoff will cause the Navy moderate inconvenience. Long ago prepared for such a move, the base has a reserve of over 15 million gallons on hand; there is also a special tanker that can convert 100,000 gallons of salt water a day into fresh water. By cutting down use from 2,000,000 gallons a day to 500,000 gallons, Guantánamo can go a month with what it has, and tankers from the U.S. can bring in whatever is needed from then on to make the base permanently self-sufficient. At week's end, President Johnson also ordered most of Guantánamo's 3,000 Cuban workers dismissed, unless they agree to live on the base or spend their pay, totaling some \$6,000,000 a year, at Guantánamo. All this should just about finish the incident—unless Castro wants to escalate the puny battle into a campaign to force the U.S. out of Guantánamo, thereby testing the Johnson Administration's firm-



FISHERMEN & GUARDS

ness, just as it is having its full share of troubles in Panama and half a dozen other places.

Castro's campaign to break through the U.S. economic embargo was picking up speed. On top of recent negotiations for British buses and Spanish fishing boats, two French firms—Automobiles M. Berliet and Richard Frères—announced that they will sell \$10 million worth of trucks and tractors to Cuba, with the French government guaranteeing up to 90% of the unpaid balance.

## PERU

### Dealing from Strength

First came a phalanx of women and children, and behind them the short, silent, barrel-chested men armed with slingshots, rusty rifles, and carrying *Tierra o Muerte* banners. Once again Peru's restless peasants were trying to chase landowners off their estates. The invasions have been going on for months, and President Fernando Belaúnde Terry has hesitated to intervene. But last week, when 8,000 peasants appeared at 14 haciendas near Cuzco in the southern highlands, troops drove them back in a pitched battle that left 17 dead, 32 wounded on both sides. Within hours, Belaúnde declared martial law in the area—and then pressed ahead with a reform program to give Peru's Indians by law what he cannot permit them to take by force.

Peru's President was not acting from weakness but from new-found strength. For the first time since he took office six months ago, Belaúnde felt secure enough to deal swiftly and firmly with an explosive situation. Having won the presidency with only 40% of the popular vote, he has depended on the shaky support of the two major opposition parties in Congress. But in December municipal elections, his *Acción Popular* party won a clear majority throughout the country. And now with national sentiment on Belaúnde's side, the opposition has more reason to cooperate. As a leader of APRA, Peru's most powerful opposition party, puts it: "We are the loyal opposition—or better, our position is one of critical cooperation."

With any luck, Belaúnde should do