

Cubans Claim

U.S. Is Now

Using Water

YATERITAS PUMP STATION, Cuba, Feb. 16 (UPI)—The United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay began to avail itself Thursday of the one-hour-per-day water supply offered by the Cuban government, Cuban waterworks officials said here today.

They said the base had not accepted the offered water for

six days after Prime Minister Fidel Castro ordered the water turned off in reprisal for the arrest of four Cuban fishing boats for alleged poaching in Florida waters.

Castro had ordered that the water be turned on one hour each day so that there would be drinking water available for women and children dependents in the American enclave on the southern coast of Cuba's eastern-most tip.

"The base resumed taking-in water on Thursday after six days (of no outside water), and now they are using suction pumps that enables them to get 104,000 gallons in one hour," pump-station attendant Austo Movilla said.

"That's 14,000 gallons more than our pump engines can send in in one hour," the government employe said.

Movilla said it was his job to turn on the valve allowing water to flow to the base at 8 a.m. each day. He cuts it off at 9 a.m.

Lt. Cesar Garcia, an army officer in charge of defense of the twin pump stations four miles from the Naval base fence, corroborated Movilla.

Area Around Base Reported Cleared

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, Feb. 16 (AP)—Rear Adm. John D. Bulkeley said today he has been told the Cubans have cleared civilians from a five-mile-deep area around this U.S. Naval Base.

The Admiral added in a hillside interview, where he trained field glasses on a truckload of Cuban soldiers, "Of course I do not know this for a fact."

But certainly the visual evidence from observation posts

around the 24 miles of fence line supports the belief.

Where ramshackle houses once stood, there now is nothing but level ground, usually occupied by a Cuban sentry shack.

"This is the Berlin wall," the Admiral observed. Then, pointing to the Cuban soldiers, he said: "They are supposed to be from Havana. They are professionals and a well-trained group of men."

The Admiral was surrounded as he talked by a group of Marines in full battle dress, plus flak jackets and riot sticks.

In a ravine back of the troop position was a field ambulance and a water hose truck borrowed from the leeward point airfield.

When it was observed that these men and their equipment had all the earmarks of riot control forces to suppress demonstrations, the Admiral replied: "I'm not saying they are and I'm not saying they are not but you will notice that they are placed well back to avoid any appearance of provocation."

The Admiral made it quite clear that he has no intention of being taken by surprise by a demonstration urged on by Fidel Castro to embarrass the United States.

"We are not going to be caught by a demonstration as some were in Panama," he said, adding, "My only purpose is to make the United States look good out of this whole mess."

Bulkeley usually visits the potential danger point for any demonstration—the northeast main gate—twice a day.

Meanwhile, a water tanker, the Tallulah arrived with 4 million gallons of drinking water aboard.