

# U.S. Gives Cuban Workers Choice: Live on Guantanamo or Lose Jobs

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GUANTANAMO BAY, Feb. 19—Cubans who live outside the gates of this United States Naval Base and commute to work no longer will be employed here.

Between 1800 and 2400 Cubans in this category are being offered a choice in interviews that were being concluded today. They can keep their jobs if they will go into exile from their native land and live permanently on the base. Otherwise, they will be dismissed.

Navy Capt. A. C. Trzyna, of the Base Public Works Office, estimated that "only a small percentage" of the commuting Cubans would decide to go into self-exile, along with about 500 others who did so some time ago.

Cuban telephone repairmen, air-conditioning mechanics, electricians, plumbers and ship repair artificers are needed to run the base. But there is always the danger that Premier Castro will decide to halt this flow of labor just as he cut off the water supply.

In six months, said Trzyna, the base will be self-sufficient in manpower.

He said the labor problem might be solved by a combination of workers from Jamaica and Navy Seabees. Floating barracks could be brought in to house the Seabees.

The departure of the approximately 2500 women and children will complete self-

sufficiency. Originally this was to be left to attrition over two years. There are indications now, however, that this may be speeded by closing the schools.

Rear Adm. John D. Bulkeley, base commander, who has two school-age children, said he was trying to get some

clarification from Washington on this point.

If the teachers are sent home in May at the end of this school year, the schools will have to close unless a system can be improvised.

This would separate families who otherwise would finish their normal tour together.