



Associated Press

A Russian freighter, in the foreground, and the British freighter Kinross were anchored side by side last week-end in waters off Boqueron, Cuba, near the northern border of the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base.

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## U.S. Cuts Water Pipes at Guantanamo After Cuba Claims It's Being Used

GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE, Cuba, Feb. 17 (UPI)—The commander of this proud U.S. Navy Base on Cuba's southeastern tip cut the water pipes today because "Castro is calling me a liar."

Cuban waterworks officials said the base was being allowed to use Cuban water for one hour a day through the generosity of Premier Castro. "Hogwash," retorted Rear Adm. John D. Bulkeley.

Castro cut off the water supply to the base Feb. 6 in retaliation for the arrest of a group of Cuban fishermen in Florida waters. But he said he would allow the water to flow daily between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. because of the needs of women and children on the base.

Bulkeley's answer was to stage a public pipe-cutting ceremony this afternoon.

Bulkeley said the valves on the two water mains have been closed since Castro first issued his cutoff order.

He said Cuban reports yesterday that U.S. sailors were using a suction pump to pull more water from the pipes on the sly was untrue.

In fact, Bulkeley said, if that had been tried all the water stored on the base would have flowed back into Cuba because the pressure in the mains was so low.

Tankers from Florida have brought enough fresh water to the base to insure a 24-hour

supply. The Defense Department is arranging transfer of an experimental desalting plant to Guantanamo.

Bulkeley said the Cubans mistakenly let about 300,000 gallons of waetr slip through—about \$70 worth—but he wasn't going to pay them for it.

As for using water on the sly, he said: "We haven't done it, we couldn't have done it, and we won't accept Cuban water in the future."

Bulkeley said he had no orders by Washington to cut the pipes, but, "I told them I was going to do it, unless otherwise directed."

The Admiral said he received an inquiry from the Secretary of the Navy as to whether Cuban water actually was being used.

### Cubans Concerned About Base Layoff

GUANTANAMO, Cuba, Feb. 17 (AP)—Cubans here in the town of Guantanamo, about 10 miles from the base, are seriously concerned about the layoff of Cuban workers at the U.S. Naval installation, fearing mass unemployment.

The area first was badly hurt when the break in relations between Cuba and the United States halted the flow of free-spending U.S. servicemen to Guantanamo and other communities near the base.

Some 70,000 persons live in

the area, including 30,000 in this town.

Despite Prime Minister Castro's assurances that the American move would not hurt the Cuban economy, Cubans here are privately bitter about the dismissals. Many are skilled technicians and can't obtain comparable jobs in this lightly industrialized area.

The Cuban government says 434 of the 3000 Cubans employed at the base have been dismissed in retaliation for Castro's shutoff of fresh water supplies. U.S. officials at the base say 517 workers have been discharged.

Cubans here anticipate a mass layoff shortly. They estimate that such a layoff would affect 15,000 persons directly and thousands more indirectly.