

# U.S. Doubts Cuba Buildup Near Guantanamo Base

United Press International

The Defense Department said yesterday that there is no evidence that Fidel Castro is reinforcing Cuban military positions outside the big United States naval base at Guantanamo.

The Department's statement came in answer to questions raised Wednesday when Cuban exile sources in Mexico City said Castro was moving guns and troops up to

the base's 21-mile perimeter.

The Department also said that construction of a \$10.7 million water de-salting plant at Guantanamo would save \$5.6 million annually compared to the cost of handling by tanker from the Florida coast to meet the base's full needs.

The cost of producing 2.2 million gallons of fresh water a day was given as \$715,000 annually. Hauling that much water would cost \$6.3 million a year, the Department said.

The Navy now is drawing up a contract with Westinghouse International for the first of three de-salting units to be brought into operation in 23 weeks. The other two units, each to produce at least 750,000 gallons a day, may take a year or more to build.

(In Port Everglades, Fla., the first of a series of big tankers began taking on water yesterday for shipment to Guantanamo.)

## **Law Firm Hired For Cuban Fishermen**

KEY WEST, Fla., Feb. 14 (AP)—The Czech embassy in Washington has engaged a New York law firm to defend the 29 Cuban fishermen charged with fishing in Florida waters without permission.

Criminal court Judge Thomas Caro set their arraignment for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the suggestion of the defense attorney, Michael Standard, of the firm Rabinowitz and Boudin. Standard flew here yesterday with Czech diplomat Frantisek Telicka, who engaged the firm on behalf of the Cuban Government.