

U.S. Denies Shooting of Cuba Guard

From News Dispatches

HAVANA, June 10 — A Cuban sentry outside the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo was shot in the leg last night when a Marine guard at the installation fired a volley, the Castro regime reported today.

The government said the shooting had taken place about a mile south of the main gate of the Base. Seven shots were fired at the Cuban guard positions and Pvt. José Ramirez Reyes, 25, was wounded in the left leg, it was reported.

A government source charged that while this was the first time a Cuban had been wounded, "Our men have been fired on before."

U.S. Denies Charge

(In Washington, the Pentagon denied that U.S. sentries shot and wounded a Cuban. It suggested the shots may have been fired by Cuban troops hunting down anti-Castro personnel.

("This report from Havana is typical of the irresponsible and unfounded allegations

originated by the Castro regime," the statement said. "Careful investigation has confirmed that no ammunition was expended by Marine guards or any other U.S. personnel last night.")

On the diplomatic front, Foreign Minister Raul Roa said Cuba was not seeking to mediate its differences with the United States.

News Reports Cited

In a statement last night he said the Cuban government had not "taken any action with anybody to seek their intercession to improve (Cuban) relations with the North American government."

Roa said reports to this effect had been carried by U.S. news agencies a few days ago.

He presumably referred to reports from Madrid that Cuban diplomats had raised with the Spanish government the possibility that Spain mediate between Havana and Washington.

'Absolutely False'

Roa's statement said, "The Ministry of Foreign Relations declares that the essential content of these reports is absolutely false."

"The aforementioned reports do not conform strictly to the truth of the facts."

Observers here were struck by the final sentence of the statement. It appeared to indicate there might be at least some truth to the reports of a mediation attempt.

If this was so it would constitute the first official hint that the Havana government thought in terms of an eventual accommodation with Washington.