

Marines Skip 5-1 1422/68 Guantanamo 'High on Pills'

HAVANA (AP)—Two teenage U.S. Marines were captured by Cuban authorities outside Guantanamo naval base Tuesday but apparently will be released to return to duty, the Communist newspaper Granma reported today.

It identified them as Ronald Clay Britton, 17, Elkton, Md., and Raymond Shaprosky, 17, Willingboro, N. J.

THE GOVERNMENT RADIO said the two were in civilian clothes when picked up without resistance Tuesday night.

The broadcast said one of the Marines told authorities the two decided last Monday to cross the Cuban border.

The Cuban radio said, "We don't like this kind of people and they can go out when they want."

Granma, which published pictures of the two on the front page, quoted Britton as saying the two met in a bar on the base Sunday night and began taking pills that the paper said tend to induce euphoria.

IT ADDED that they decided to cross into Cuban territory and quoted Britton as saying they wanted to escape military service.

"As it appears their intentions were nothing other than to go into Cuban territory and as our country has no interest in such immigrants, they will be given the option to abandon our national territory," Granma said.

It quoted Britton as saying 90 per cent of the unit to which he belongs smokes marijuana, even while on guard duty.

Granma said the two Marines' statements "confirmed the grade of perversion and immorality which characterizes the corps in which they serve."

The picture of Britton published by Granma showed him wearing a T-shirt with "Elkton Athletic Department" across the front.