

RAY LANDS IN NASSAU COURT

Cuban Exile's Foray Fizzles

Herald Tribune Service

WASHINGTON — Cuban exile leader Manuel Ray's ballyhooed "battle to the death" against Fidel Castro came to a whacky and confused anti-climax Thursday — just two weeks after the May 20 deadline by which he was supposed to be fighting inside Cuba.

Ray, the 39-year-old head of the Cuban revolutionary junta sneaked out the back door of a Nassau, Bahamas, police station Thursday afternoon after he and seven others were fined by a Nassau magistrate for illegal possession of firearms.

The exile leader, who doggedly insisted that his name was Manuel Martinez and not Ray, was captured on desolate Anguilla Key Monday by the British destroyer HMS Decoy, which was on a regular patrol mission in the lower Bahamas Islands.

He was with four other Cubans who tried to outrun the destroyer in a 25-foot motor boat. A landing party from the Decoy later went ashore and nabbed two American

freelance photographers and a Cuban-born woman who also claimed to be a freelancer.

Ray's identity was confirmed by photographer An-



Manuel Ray, Cuban exile leader being led into court.

drew St. George of Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., who acted as spokesman for the captured group.

"Yes, Ray was in the

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BRITISH STOP FORAY

Ray's Arrest Hits Exiles

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group," St. George said. "but he says he has no declaration to make now. He will make no statements until he arrives in Cuba to join the underground which is fighting there now."

Apparently at his request, Ray was segregated from the other members of the group and protected by Nassau police against the view of newsmen. He was reportedly whisked out a rear door of the police station, and quickly disappeared without a word to a horde of newsmen waiting out front.

Nassau police said, however, they "cannot either confirm or deny that Ray is among the group. As far as we know many of them may have given assumed names."

There was no firm indication as to what went wrong with Ray's promise to be inside Cuba by now, but all signs pointed to the assumption that he had not made the trip. Exiles in Miami still held onto the hope that Ray might have already been inside Cuba and was preparing for a second infiltration attempt—with all the publicity three photographers could give him.

But Ray's refusal to speak to reporters, and his almost comical attempts to conceal his identity, seemed to indi-

cate that his arrest came about.

The capture of Ray raised a storm of wild speculation in exile circles and, as one anti-Castroite bleakly put it: "It may have killed off any chance for toppling Fidel for months or years to come."

It was also speculated that Ray, finding it too difficult to infiltrate the Communist-controlled island, had "blown the whistle on himself" and hoped to be captured.

This way, said some exiles, Ray could claim to his followers that he had tried and failed in his mission because of British interference and will try again another time. This tactic, Cuban exile sources point out, has been used time and again by exile groups as an excuse for infiltration failures.

The state department's disclosure of Ray's capture implicated the U. S. A U. S. coast guard plane on "routine patrol" came across the Decoy chasing Ray's boat off Anguilla Key, a favorite stopping-off point of exile raiders in the past.

The Decoy, the state department said, radioed the plane for assistance and the plane dropped a sealed note ordering the boat to heave to.

"We had no business butting in on this thing," said one congressman angrily,

adding that he would amplify his suspicions later.

A state department official, however, said such a reaction was expected when it was determined that Ray was caught, but that there was absolutely no indication — in answer to congressional charges — that any U. S. agency had any reason to "tip off anyone about Mr. Ray." He said that it was probably an "unfortunate coincidence" that the British destroyer and Ray's group happened to be in the same place at the same time.

In any case, state department experts and the vast majority of Cuban exiles agree that the incident can only hurt Ray's prestige and may, as one exile put it, "make him the laughing stock of Miami and Cuba."

Trucker Named In Damage Suit

Grady Hall, Oklahoma City truck driver, Thursday was named defendant in a \$100,275 damage suit filed by Raymond Curry, injured in a truck-auto collision in May, 1963.

Curry alleged he was a passenger in an automobile which collided with a truck driven by Hall on S Byers at the junction of I. H. 35. He charged he suffered permanent injuries.