

2 Castro Fighters About to

By Al Burt

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MIAMI—Two Cuban exiles, one a soft-spoken idealist and the other a machete-slim fighter, today are in or near Cuba to fight or die.

Both are veterans of the Cuban revolution against Dictator Fulgencio Batista. Both

are now in the fight against Premier Fidel Castro.

Manuel Ray, an engineer who would rather build than kill but organizes both exceptionally well, plans an internal resistance movement which he hopes will snowball into open fighting or possibly a coup.

Elroy Gutierrez Menoyo,

who hates oppression and loves battle with equal vigor, plans guerrilla warfare which he hopes will succeed in the pattern Castro himself once set.

Survival Chancy

Neither one expects or promises that Castro will perish quickly, but many ob-

servers will view it as remarkable if neither Ray nor Menoyo does.

Ray promised a year ago that he would be in Cuba by May 20. That is Wednesday. This date, as well as reports of shortwave broadcasts telling Cubans "that the hour is very near" have the refugee

colony here buzzing with rumors of new strikes against Castro.

Ray's strength is in appealing to the social ideals with which Castro once charmed all of Cuba and then betrayed. His philosophy is a mixture of early Castro and current Alliance for Progress.

Menoyo has been carrying a commando fight to Cuba for more than a year. He is less sophisticated politically than Ray, but their views are in general accord. He operated as chief of the fighting wings of three coordinated groups—Alpha 66, the Second National Front and the People's Revolutionary Movement.

Once Castro Minister

Ray, a baby-faced 39-year-old father of five, belonged to the old July 26 movement until he split with Castro in late 1959 after 11 months as his Minister of Public Works.

"Internal resistance is the one thing Fidel cannot afford," Ray said recently, "because it demonstrates that he is a dictator against the people. The thing he fears most is the old July 26 movement, the friends he betrayed."

Menoyo, a 30-year-old bachelor, served as a major in Castro's rebel army, later ran a little tavern in Havana called Elroy's Bar. He defected in January, 1961.

Ray says his underground will be set up in small units. "No one unit will have direct contact with the others," he said. "We will take no action until we are ready over much of the island, and then it must be a thing that can go on and on."

Keep May 20 Promise

"Cutting the Alligator"

Menoyo once compared Cuba to an alligator, with Oriente Province as the head and Pinar Del Rio as the tail. "If the alligator is cut in two at the center," he said at that time, "then the head and tail will perish." The center is Las Villas Province, and the Escambray Mountains where

Menoyo made his anti-Batista fight.

Ray once faced a bitter exile campaign against him based on the charge that he offered "Fidelism without Fidel." He survived that as well as the split of his original organization, the People's Revolutionary Movement, after the Bay of Pigs invasion. Two years ago he formed the revolutionary junta, which has grown into one of the top Cuban exile groups, and is based on principles intend-

ed to offer a positive approach to post-Castro problems.

"We must offer a program that not only eliminates communism, but also eliminates the earlier days of corruption and repression," Ray said.

U.S. officials deny ties with either man, wish them well, but express doubt about what they can achieve against Castro's powerful military machine.

Unrest in Miami

The promised time for the jump-off of Ray and Menoyo

into Cuba comes at the end of a week filled with unrest in the Cuban exile colony here. However, it has seemed to make U.S. officials more uncomfortable than anyone else.

As reports of commando raids, impending uprisings, infiltrations and all manner of heroics ricocheted around Miami, officials privately worried for two reasons:

1. Rumors and exaggera-

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tions inflame the exiles, causing many to uproot themselves from jobs and homes, adding to the sizable problem of resettlement.

2. The implication arises that the U.S. may be secretly involved, which the officials emphatically deny.

Fuel was added to exile excitement by a raid last week by Manuel Artime's Movement for Revolutionary Recovery, against a sugar mill on the south coast of Oriente Province.