

New Cuban Exile Camp Reports

By Al Burt
Miami Herald

MIAMI—A new tale of intrigue and perhaps tragedy is developing among Cuban exiles reminiscent of the troubles that boiled in semi-secrecy before the Bay of Pigs invasion disaster.

It involves the Revolutionary Recovery Movement of Manuel Artime, a leader in that invasion, and the location again is Central America.

But there are several important differences.

The anti-Castro efforts now involve probably less than half the number of men as before, placing their strength against a Cuban military machine ranked second in this hemisphere only to the United States. As did their predecessors, the exiles insist that factors inside Cuba known only to them will make the difference.



MANUEL ARTIME
... Cuban exiles' leader

In addition to being fewer in number, the operation now

is no more secret, appears less well-organized—and has the added burden of being charged with corruption.

The corruption charges are vague, and there is no official announcement specifying Artime or the MRR. The question came up because of an investigation of whisky contraband in Costa Rica, in which some Cubans have been implicated by rumor.

Another difference in the current anti-Castro efforts is that there is no open U.S. involvement.

Hope for Developments

The training now appears aimed at commando attacks on strategic or economic targets, while maintaining a contingency force to react to any developments inside Cuba. A full-scale invasion appears neither planned nor possible.

Exile leaders express con-

fidence that developments will come within Cuba to make Premier Fidel Castro vulnerable, and perhaps overthrow him.

This confidence appears to center on three possibilities: a coup instituted by power factors in Cuba; the possibility of assassination; the possibility that the Russian-Chinese split will result in Soviet abandonment of Cuba and create an opening for a rebellion.

Military experts regard these as long shots at best.

At least \$3 million, and perhaps as high as \$6 million, is estimated to have gone into the training and equipping of an estimated 200 men (some estimates place it at 600) in small guerrilla camps in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Both Costa Rica and Nicaragua deny the existence of these camps.

No other organization is so

Recall Bay of Pigs Buildup

well financed and so well equipped as Artime's. His forces, sporting a four-ship navy and free movement in Central America, have had commando capability for approximately one year.

Score To Date

Their score: destruction of one sugar warehouse containing 70,000 sacks of sugar May 13 and an attack (extent of damage unconfirmed) on a radar station Aug. 30.

Both attacks were made on the south coast of Cuba's Oriente Province.

In contrast, some Cuban exile groups operating with shoestring budgets — not a tenth of the MRR financing—have put together more mosquito raids.

The Central America training camps, their approximate number of men and their general equipment have been known at least

since March, 1963, when Artime himself made a public statement revealing them.

Since then, press and radio in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Cuba repeatedly have published items about the camps.

Smuggling Rumored

This fall, Communist media began airing rumors of smuggling.

In October, the Costa Rican Communist weekly Libertad said Cubans were engaging in the "boldest smuggling operations."

Libertad added: "The Cuban counterrevolutionaries are practically the owners of the port of Tortuguero . . . which they use both to mobilize men and arms against Cuba and to smuggle goods into the country."

The MRR labeled these charges as ridiculous attempts by the Communists to smear the operations.

A Costa Rican investigation of whisky contraband, confirmed by President Ohrlich after the police discovery of a cache of some \$50,000 worth of whisky, has been announced. If there is any link to MRR, however, it is not official.

Any investigation of that aspect might also be interpreted as an attempt by Costa Rica to clear the Cubans and try to rid the atmosphere of rumors, which have a detrimental effect on the anti-Castro training.

Police Checking Platinum Switch

LONDON (UPI) — British and American police are investigating the disappearance of \$89,000 worth of platinum bound for Detroit from London.

Four boxes containing platinum—more valuable than gold and estimated to be worth \$179,000—were put in a special

"valuables pouch" which was sealed and then stowed in the hold of a regular Pan American Boeing liner at London Airport.

The plane made a transit stop at Boston and then landed at Detroit. There, two of the boxes were found to contain lead.