

U. S. Government Lashed

Americans Visit Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Destruction of the U. S. government is advocated by four Negro students among a group of 73 Americans who are visiting Cuba in defiance of U. S. State Department restrictions.

A statement denouncing the "North American racist government" was issued by the four. It added, "we realize the United States government is the biggest farce in history and must be destroyed."

Six others among the 73 men, women and children who arrived yesterday by way of Prague, Czechoslovakia, are Negroes.

A 23-year-old New Yorker, Ed Lemansky, identified himself as group leader and a Communist.

He handed out a statement declaring: "We have different reasons for coming to Cuba, but we are united in

our opposition to our government's efforts to prevent United States citizens from travelling to Cuba.

The four Negroes identified themselves as Ernest Allen, 21, Oakland, Calif., a student at the University of California at Berkeley; Luke Tripp, 23, Detroit, student at Wayne State; Charles Bernard, 24, Los Angeles, student at Los Angeles City College; and Ron Bedford, 26, St. Louis architectural draftsman.

The 73 circumvented U. S. restrictions on Cuban travel by obtaining passports to Europe, flying to Paris and then to Prague before flying to Havana.

Lemansky said the group members were from various parts of the United States and Puerto Rico. "We hold many different beliefs and belong to many different organizations," he said.

The Americans, 49 men and 24 women, planned a two-month stay in Cuba.

This would have them on hand for the celebration of the July 26 movement — the party of Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Lemansky said a complete list of names of group members would be released. "We are not trying to hide anything," he said. "We are doing this openly and publicly."

In Washington, the state department said only it learned the group was en route to Cuba and notified U. S. embassies in Paris and Prague. But the word was too late for the embassies to reach the students and warn them of the consequences of a visit to Cuba.

Lemansky told newsmen the trip was arranged by the student committee for travel to Cuba, the organization that sponsored a trip to Cuba last year by 59 American students. He said the Cuban Federation of University Students (FEU) was paying the group's expenses.

Memorial Held