

TRAVEL BAN DEFIED

73 Americans Daily Okla Herald 6/13/54 Visiting Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—A group of 73 Americans described as mostly students arrived by way of Prague Friday for a visit of more than a month made despite the U. S. state department ban on travel to Cuba.

Several children also accompanied the group whose arrival and photographs were page one news in Havana's newspapers.

The stories recalled the group of U. S. students who visited Cuba last summer despite obstacles raised "by the Yankee government."

Victor Gonzalez, organizing secretary of the Young Communists Union, delivered a welcoming speech. Cuban students presented the 49 men and 24 women with flowers. Officials from the Cuban foreign ministry were present.

They are expected to stay at least through the celebration of the July 26 movement marking the anniversary of the storming of the Moncado barracks in 1953 by forces led by Fidel Castro then a struggling revolutionary.

The students circumvented the U. S. travel ban by obtaining passports to Europe flying to Paris and then to Prague before coming to Havana.

In Washington, the state department had no immediate formal comment on the arrival of the group in Havana.