

A161MH

CUBANS

3 JAN 1967

633 ~~763~~ AES

TO

1135 AES

U R G E N T

SECOND LEAD INVASION BJT (300)

KEY WEST, FLA., JAN. 3 (AP)-A CUBAN EXILE SAID TODAY THAT A VEST POCKET INVASION OF HAITI, DESIGNED TO EVENTUALLY LEAD TO A WAR AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO, WAS SQUELCHED BY THE ARREST OF A HEAVILY ARMED BAND OF LATIN EXILES AND AMERICAN ADVENTURERS.

HOWEVER, THE CHIEF OF THE OPERATION, ROLANDO MASFERRER, CONTROVERSIAL ONETIME AIDE OF OUSTED CUBAN DICTATOR FULGENCIO BATISTA, SAID 50 COMMANDOES GOT AWAY IN A BOAT BEFORE CUSTOMS AGENTS MADE THE ARRESTS IN A RAID AT A BEACHFRONT HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS LAST NIGHT.

BUT ONE OF THE COMPANY COMMANDERS SAID HE ESCAPED THE ROUNDUP BY CRAWLING AWAY IN THE DARKNESS AND HITCHING A RIDE TO MIAMI.

THE COMMANDER, ATON CONSTANZO PALAU, LATER DETAILED THE BATTLE PLANS, WHICH HE SAID INVOLVED ABOUT 75 CUBAN EXILES, 30 HAITIAN EXILES AND 23 AMERICANS.

HE SAID 20 EXILES HAD ALREADY BEEN SNEAKED INTO HAITI AND WERE SUPPOSED TO ATTACK AND SEIZE THE AIRPORT AT CAPE HAITIAN THIS WEEK.

A FLEDGLING AIR FORCE OF FIVE PLANES--A B25, A B26, A DC3 AND TWO P51S--WOULD THEN USE THE AIRPORT AS A BASE TO BOMB THE GARRISON ADJACENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT PORT AU PRINCE, CONSTANZO SAID.

THE REMAINDER OF THE LITTLE ARMY WAS TO LAND AT PORT-AU-PRINCE, RALLY THE REBELS ALREADY IN HAITI AND REPLACE DICTATOR FRANCOIS DUVALIER WITH FATHER JEAN BAPTISTE GEORGES, CONSTANZO SAID.

A162MH

WITHIN 30 DAYS THE INVADERS HOPED TO BUILD AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO STRIKE ACROSS THE NARROW WINDWARD PASSAGE AND OVERTHROW PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO, CONSTANZO SAID.

MASFERRER, ONE OF THE 70 ARRESTED IN THE RAID, WAS BITTER AT THE UNITED STATES FOR STOPPING HIS FORAY AGAINST HAITI, WHICH ALSO ENDED HIS PLANS FOR FIGHTING CASTRO.

MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED HAITI ONLY A STEPPING STONE TO CUBA.

"WE WANT TO FIGHT COMMUNISM, BUT NOT IN VIETNAM, ONLY IN CUBA," SAID ONE. "SO WHY STOP US?"

MASFERRER, WHO LED A PRIVATE ARMY UNDER BATISTA AND WAS IMMUNE TO ARREST, SAID THE BOAT THAT GOT AWAY WAS ALREADY IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

"NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT," HE SAID. "IT'S FREE AND CLEAR."

MASFERRER, WHO STIRS SHARP CONTROVERSY AMONG EXILES, WAS TAKEN TO KEY WEST WITH A BUSLOAD OF OTHER COMMANDOES.

THE MARSHALL'S OFFICE LISTED 19 IN CUSTODY IN KEY WEST--INCLUDING A WOMAN--AND 51 IN CUSTODY IN MIAMI.

AMONG THOSE IN KEY WEST WAS FATHER GEORGES, A FORMER HAITIAN PRIEST WHO WAS ONCE EDUCATION MINISTER UNDER DUVALIER.

CUSTOMS AGENTS, WHO HAD STAKED OUT THE STAGING AREA IN THE KEYS FOR DAYS, MOVED IN LAST NIGHT ABOUT 8:30 P.M.

FOUR TO A CAR, 15 AGENTS RACED DOWN A LONELY ROAD FROM KEY VACA, JUST NORTH OF MARATHON, TO COCOA PLUM BEACH, AN ISLAND CREATED BY FILING SHALLOW SPOTS IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

THE WAR PARTY X X X 11TH GRAF A104

SJ1135AES

EA104MH

-U R G E N T-

PMS BJT (600)

FIRST LEAD INVASION

KEY WEST, FLA., JAN. 3 (AP)-A BAND OF HEAVILY ARMED LATIN EXILES AND AMERICAN ADVENTURERS WAS ARRESTED IN THE FLORIDA KEYS LAST NIGHT, APPARENTLY SQUELCHING A VEST-POCKET INVASION OF HAITI.

HOWEVER, ONE OF THE INVASION ORGANIZERS SAID TODAY THAT A BOATLOAD OF COMMANDOES GOT AWAY.

ROLANDO MASFERRER, A FORMER CUBAN SENATOR WHO HOPED THE INVASION MIGHT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE OVERTHROW OF CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO, SAID 50 MEN WERE ABOARD THE SHIP.

"IT'S IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS," SAID MASFERRER, WHO HAD TRIED AND FAILED TO LAUNCH A HAITIAN INVASION IN NOVEMBER. "NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT."

MASFERRER, ARRESTED ALONG WITH DOZENS OF OTHER UNIFORMED COMMANDOES AT A BEACHFRONT HOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS, SAID THE SHIP WAS TO HAVE RENDEZVOUSED WITH TWO OTHER BOATLOADS OF INVADERS ON A HAITIAN SHORE THIS WEEK.

JOINING FORCES WITH REBELS INSIDE HAITI, THE COMMANDOES EXPECTED TO OUST HAITIAN DICTATOR FRANCOIS DUVALIER WITHIN A WEEK, MASFERRER SAID. FATHER JEAN BAPTISTE GEORGES, FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER UNDER DUVALIER, WAS TO BE MADE PRESIDENT.

EA105MH

THIRTY DAYS LATER, MASFERRER SAID, HE WOULD HAVE AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO INVADE CUBA, STRIKING ACROSS THE NARROW WINDWARD PASSAGE THAT SEPARATES HAITI AND CUBA.

BUT U.S. CUSTOMS AGENTS SURROUNDED THE BEACHFRONT HOME -- AT COCOA PLUM BEACH ON A REMOTE SECTION OF KEY VACA (CQ) NORTH OF MARATHON LAST NIGHT AND BROKE UP THE PLANS.

TWENTY-ONE CUBAN AND HAITIAN EXILES -- FROM MIAMI AND NEW YORK -- WERE ARRESTED AND CARRIED TO KEY WEST. FATHER GEORGES WAS AMONG THEM.

CUSTOMS AGENTS SAID 79 WERE ARRESTED AND CARRIED TO MIAMI IN TWO CHARTERED BUSES. THE JAIL IN MIAMI SAID IT BOOKED ONLY 52.

EA1321MH

KEY WEST, FLA.--FIRST LEAD INVASION (A104) INSERT AFTER 10TH GRAF X X X ONLY 52.

FRED PATTON, SUPERVISING AGENT OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICE IN MIAMI, SAID THE COMMANDOES WOULD PROBABLY BE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT ARMS ILLEGALLY.

THE WAR PARTY X X X 11TH GRAF PVS

SJ933AESNM

THE WAR PARTY -- DRESSED IN A MOTLEY COLLECTION OF U.S. ARMY FATIGUES, CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS AND HUNTING GEAR -- HAD BEEN IN THE KEYS FIVE DAYS GETTING READY FOR THE INVASION. A TRUCK LOADED WITH 1,000 POUNDS OF DYNAMITE WAS FOUND ON THE HIGHWAY SUNDAY, AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE ARRESTED.

MASFERRER SAID THE ARMY WAS TO EMBARK IN THREE SHIPS. HE INDICATED THE FIRST SHIP SLIPPED AWAY FROM SHORE POSSIBLY ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE RAID.

FIFTEEN MEN WERE ABOUT TO BOARD A 55-FOOT SHRIMP BOAT WHEN THE AGENTS BROKE IN. THE REMAINDER OF THE GROUP WAS TO TAKE OFF LATER, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN.

EA106MH

THERE WAS MUCH SHOUTING IN SPANISH WHEN THE WAR PARTY WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE CONCRETE-BLOCK HOUSE OF SOME EIGHT TO TEN ROOMS.

THE MEN FINALLY LINED UP IN A MILITARY FORMATION AND STARTED MARCHING DOWN THE NARROW PAVED ROAD IN THE DARKNESS TOWARD MARATHON, APPARENTLY A PROTEST AGAINST THEIR ARREST.

THE OUTNUMBERED CUSTOMS AGENTS -- WHO APPARENTLY DID NOT EXPECT SUCH A LARGE GROUP -- CALLED FOR RE-ENFORCEMENTS. MORE THAN 20 SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES FROM UP AND DOWN THE LONG CHAIN OF KEYS RUSHED TO THE HOUSE.

AS THE CARS BEGAN TO ARRIVE, THE EXILES STOPPED MARCHING. NO SHOTS WERE FIRED.

"THEY WERE PRETTY PEACEFUL WHEN I GOT THERE," SAID ONE DEPUTY. "THEY WERE STANDING IN LITTLE GROUPS BESIDE THE ROAD WAITING FOR THE CHARTER BUSES. A FEW OF THEM WOULD GET EXCITED EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE."

MASFERRER SAID HE HAD ORGANIZED AN ARMY OF 350 MEN. HE HINTED THE OTHERS MIGHT BE WAITING FOR THE INVASION TO START, BUT HE GAVE NO SPECIFICS WHEN QUESTIONED.

INSIDE THE HOUSE, AGENTS FOUND AN ARSENAL. MASFERRER SAID IT INCLUDED 100 MI RIFLES, 50 CARBINES, 10 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, 15 .30-CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, 10 .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, 6 60 MILLIMETER MORTARS, 3 81-MILLIMETER MORTARS AND 50 BELGIAN RIFLES.

EA107MH

MASFERRER WAS TAKEN TO KEY WEST, WHERE HE AND THE OTHER COMMANDOES MILLED AROUND UNTIL DAWN WHILE CUSTOMS AGENTS PROCESSED THEM. SOME WORE OLIVE GREEN BATTLE FATIGUES; SOME WORE CIVILIAN CLOTHES; SOME WORE MIXTURES OF BOTH.

ONE HAITIAN YOUTH CARRIED A SIX-INCH BUST OF JOSE MARTI, THE CUBAN INDEPENDENCE HERO.

A HAITIAN EXILE FROM NEW YORK HOISTED A BANNER AS HE WAS HAULED INTO THE MIAMI JAIL. "IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH," SAID THE LARGE BLUE AND WHITE HAITIAN REVOLUTIONARY FLAG.

"WE HAD BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR SEVEN YEARS AND NOW THIS," HE SAID.

MASFERRER, WEARING A CAMOUFLAGE CAP, GREEN FATIGUE PANTS, A BROWN SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRT AND BROWN HUNTING BOOTS, WAS BITTER ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' STOPPING THE INVASION.

"THE UNITED STATES IS PROTECTING FIDEL CASTRO," HE SAID.

* THE HUGE CUBAN X X X 29TH GRAF PVS (WHICH FIRST GRAF A34)

EJ753AES

3 JAN 1967

633 AES

TO

710 AES

A71°MH

BULLETIN

KEY WEST, FLA., JAN. 3 (AP)-ONE HUNDRED LATIN AND AMERICAN
COMMANDOES WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT AT A REMOTE FLORIDA KEYS BEACH.
ONE OF THE LATIN SAID TODAY THE ARRESTS STOPPED A VEST-POCKET INVASION
OF HAITI.

SJ533AES

A72MH

BULLETIN MATTER

KEY WEST, FLA.--FIRST ADD INVASION X X X OF HAITI.
HOWEVER, ONE BOATLOAD OF COMMANDOES GTAG U FLBEFORE U. S. CUSTOMS
AGENTS MOVED IN, ACCORDING TO ROLANDO MASFERRER, A FORMER CUBAN SENATV
BUST IT

A72MH

BULLETIN MATTER

KEY WEST, FLA.--FIRST ADD INVASION X X X OF HAITI.
HOWEVER, ONE BOATLOAD OF COMMANDOES GOT AWAY BEFORE U. S. CUSTOMS
AGENTS MOVED IN, ACCORDING TO ROLANDO MASFERRER, A FORMER CUBAN SENATOR.
"IT'S IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS," HE SAID. "IT'S FREE AND CLEAR.
NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT."
HE SAID 50 HEAVILY ARMED MEN WERE ABOARD THE SHIP. THEY WERE TO
HAVE RENDEZVOUSED WITH TWO OTHER BOATLOADS OF INVADERS IN HAITI SOME
TIME THIS WEEK, HE SAID.

SJ535AESNM

A73MH

U R G E N T

KEY WEST, FLA.--SECOND ADD INVASION X X X HE SAID.

WITH HELP FROM MALCONTENTS INSIDE HAITI, MASFERRER SAID HE HOPED TO TOPPLE HAITIAN DICTATOR FRANCOIS DUVALIER WITHIN A WEEK.

THIRTY DAYS LATER, HE SAID, HE WOULD HAVE AN ARMY CAPABLE OF INVADING CUBA.

MASFERRER IS A FORMER CUBAN SENATOR WHO ORGANIZED AN INVASION OF HAITI LAST MONTH. IT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN APART WHEN CUBAN EXILE MILITARY CHIEFS BACKED OUT.

HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THE BOAT THAT GOT AWAY MIGHT DO. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN IT LEFT FLORIDA FOR HAITI, BUT INDICATED IT HAD NOT BEEN LONG.

SJ538AES NM

A78MH

U R G E N T

KEY WEST, FLA.--THIRD ADD INVASION X X X BEEN LONG.

CUSTOMS AGENTS BROKE INTO AN OCEANFRONT HOME AT COCOA PLUM BEACH, A REMOTE SECTION OF KEY BACA NORTH OF MARATHON IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS.

MASFERRER SAID 15 MEN WERE ABOUT TO BOARD A 55-FOOT SHRIMP BOAT TO HEAD FOR HAITI.

THE COMMANDO GROUP--DRESSED IN A MOTLEY COMBINATION OF U. S. ARMY FATIGUES, CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS AND HUNTING OUTFITS--GOT BELLIGERENT WHEN THE AGENTS PUT THEM UNDER ARREST. SOME THREATENED TO MARCH INTO MARATHON.

THE OUTNUMBERED CUSTOMS MEN CALLED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR RE-ENFORCEMENTS AND 20 OFFICERS RUSHED TO HELP.

THE SHOW OF FORCE SUBDUED THE EXILES. NO SHOTS WERE FIRED.

"WHEN I GOT THERE ABOUT 11 O'CLOCK," SAID ONE DEPUTY, "THEY WERE LINED UP ALONG THE ROAD WAITING FOR THE CHARTER BUSES TO TAKE THEM TO MIAMI AND KEY WEST."

MASFERRER SAID HE HAD AN ARSENAL STASHED AWAY IN THE CONCRETE BLOCK HOME. HE SAID IT INCLUDED 100 M1 RIFLES, 50 CARBINES, 10 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, FIFTEEN .30-CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, TEN .50-CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, SIX 60 MILLIMETER MORTARS, THREE 81-MILLIMETER MORTARS AND 50 BELGIAN RIFLES.

A79MH

TWO BUSES TRANSPORTED 79 MEN CLAD IN OLIVE GREEN BATTLE UNIFORMS TO THE DADE COUNTY JAIL IN MIAMI.

"WE WERE GOING TO HAITI FIRST, THEN TO CUBA TO LIBERATE OUR COUNTRY," SAID A CUBAN IN THE GROUP.

A HAITIAN EXILE FROM NEW YORK CARRIED A LARGE BLUE AND WHITE HAITIAN REVOLUTIONARY FLAG WITH THE WORDS, "IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

HE SAID, "WE HAD BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR SEVEN YEARS AND NOW THIS."

MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION SAID AMERICANS AS WELL AS CUBANS AND HAITIANS FROM NEW YORK AND MIAMI WERE INCLUDED IN THEIR GROUP.

TWENTY-ONE WERE HAULED TO KEY WEST. THEY MILLED AROUND THE MONROE COUNTY JAIL WHILE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS PROCESSED THEM.

THEIR UNIFORMS WERE A HODGE-PODGE. SOME WORE BERETS, SOME WORE HUNTING CAPS, SOME WERE BAREHEADED. MOST WORE RED AND BLUE SHOULDER PATCHES.

ONE HAITIAN YOUTH CARRIED A SIX-INCH-TALL BUST OF JOSE MARTI, THE CUBAN INDEPENDENCE HERO.

MASFERRER, DRESSED IN BROWN HUNTING BOOTS, A CAMOUFLAGE CAP, A BROWN SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRT AND GREEN FATIGUE PANTS, SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS PROTECTING FIDEL CASTRO.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN PLANNED THE INVASION FOR YEARS, AND A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY WAS INVESTED IN MEN AND ARMS.

A80MH

"WE LEFT FOR THE KEYS FIVE DAYS AGO," SAID A MEMBER OF THE EXPEDITION WHO WAS BROUGHT TO MIAMI.

ANOTHER, A CUBAN, SAID TWO MEN ARRESTED NEAR MARATHON SUNDAY WITH A TRUCKLOAD OF EXPLOSIVES BELONGED TO THEIR GROUP. THE TRUCK CARRIED 1,000 POUNDS OF DYNAMITE.

HE ALSO SAID, "WE WANT TO FIGHT COMMUNISM, BUT NOT IN VIETNAM, ONLY IN CUBA. SO WHY STOP US?"

SJ601AESNM

A84'MH

U R G E N T

Key West, Fla. -- Fourth add invasion X X X stop us?"

* The huge Cuban exile colony in Miami has circulated rumors for months that an invasion of Haiti was in the making.

The details were not a well-kept secret. A CBS camera crew has reportedly been filming the plotting for six months, beginning in a New York basement.

A top CBS news executive came to Miami two months ago to set up a command post to direct coverage of the invasion once it left American shores.

&A97

Key West - In fourth add invasion (A84MH) insert after the third graf "A top CBS new X X X left American shores."

In New York, Robert Chandler, manager of news program administration for CBS, issued the following statement today:

"It is true that we (CBS) had a camera crew filming interviews with some of those involved. We did not have an executive in a command post in Miami. Actually, it was a producer in a hotel room."

Late in November, X X X 4th graf previous.

PL710AES

LATE IN NOVEMBER, THERE WERE EVEN REPORTS THAT THE INVASION HAD STARTED. BUT ON NOV. 23, BITTER CUBAN EXILES BEGAN TO TALK DETAILS, AND IT TURNED OUT THAT THE INVASION PLANS FELL APART.

~~NAPOLEON VILABOA, 29, A ONETIME REBEL ARMY CAPTAIN IN CUBA, SAID HE WAS APPROACHED TO BE CHIEF OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. HE SAID HE AGREED ON THE UNDERSTANDING HE WOULD HAVE SUPPORT FROM TH~~

WAS APPROACHED TO BE CHIEF OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. HE SAID HE AGREED ON THE UNDERSTANDING HE WOULD HAVE SUPPORT FROM THE U. S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

HE SAID HE WAS ALSO TOLD HE WOULD GET AIR COVER FROM A B26, A DC3, AND FOUR SINGLE-ENGINE PLANES EQUIPPED WITH MACHINE GUNS.

JUST DAYS BEFORE THE INVASION WAS TO BEGIN, VILABOA SAID, HE AND MASFERRER SPLIT AND HE AND HIS MILITARY STAFF QUIT.

EARLY IN DECEMBER, THE HAITIAN CONSUL IN MIAMI, EUGENE MAXMILIEN, SAID THAT MASFERRER HAD OFFERED TO CALL THE INVASION OFF FOR \$200,000. MAXMILIEN SAID HE RELAYED THE OFFER TO DUVALIER, WHO TURNED IT DOWN.

MASFERRER DENIED THE CHARGE. HE SAID HE HAD NEVER MET MAXMILIEN.

SJ622AESNM