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MIAMI, FLA. (AP)-THE U.S. IMMIGRATION SERVICE RETAINED ITS HOLD ON CUBAN EXILE LEADER FELIPE RIVERO TODAY AFTER REJECTING A BID FOR FREEDOM THAT BROUGHT ON A VOLUNTARY CONFESSION TO RUNNING GUNS TO ANTI-CASTRO FORCES IN CUBA.

RIVERO, 43-YEAR-OLD LEADER OF THE MILITANT CUBAN NATIONALIST ASSOCIATION, FACES OUSTER FROM THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF HIS ORGANIZATION'S ADVOCATION OF VIOLENCE.

HIS REQUEST FOR BAIL, PENDING A SETTLEMENT OF THE OUSTER PROCEEDINGS, WAS DENIED FRIDAY BY AN IMMIGRATION SERVICE INQUIRY OFFICER.

AN APPEAL OF THE ORDER IS EXPECTED TO BE HEARD WITHIN TWO WEEKS BY THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE'S BOARD OF APPEALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

RIVERO HAS SOUGHT A DEPORTATION HEARING, AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN, BECAUSE HE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR BAIL PENDING THE ACTUAL REMOVAL. AS AN EXILE, HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES ON PAROLE AND COMES UNDER THE EXCLUSION ACT--WHICH PROHIBITS BAIL.

RIVERO, CONFINED HERE SINCE HIS ARREST MAY 12, TESTIFIED THAT HE AND TWO COMPANIONS USED A SMALL BOAT TO TAKE GUNS TO ANTI-CASTRO FIGHTERS IN CUBA LAST OCTOBER. SUCH AN ACT WOULD HAVE VIOLATED HIS PAROLE AND MADE HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AN ILLEGAL ENTRY.

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