

**NEWSWEEK HINTS U.S.
HELPED CUBANS FLEE**

Newsweek magazine, in its latest issue, has reported that the 86 Cubans who escaped to the Guantanamo naval base last week might have done so with the help of United States Marine guards in violation of a treaty governing use of the base.

In Washington, the Defense Department declined immediate comment on the report.

The Newsweek story, in the Jan. 20 issue, said that the refugees' widely conflicting versions of their escape cast doubt on the reports that they climbed over the base's six-foot fence while under fire from Cuban border guards.

"It did not seem altogether impossible," Newsweek said, "that . . . those who made it to safety inside the naval base did so not by climbing over the fence but by dashing through a gate thrown open by U. S. Marine sentries."

Such action, the magazine said, would violate terms of the 1903 treaty between Cuba and the United States barring use of the base as a haven for refugees.

Newsweek also said that it had learned that at least some—the exact number was not given—of the refugees arriving in Miami last week had not participated in the breakout but had entered the base by other means.