

Immigration Aide Rules Cubans At Sugar Parley Can Be Ousted

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NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 2—A Federal immigration official ruled today that the 22 Cubans who landed here last week to attend an international sugar conference were "excludable and deportable from the United States" because they did not have visas.

At the close of the one-hour hearing at Alvin Callender Naval Air Station, where the Cubans are interned, their leader paid a \$25 fee and entered a notice of appeal. The Cubans acted as their own counsel. The case is to be heard by the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington in the next few days.

'Farcity' Charged

The Cubans will remain in detention at the base, which is in Belle Chasse, nine miles across the Mississippi River from New Orleans and the site of the conference.

In a statement in English released to the press by their Czech representative after the hearing, the Cubans called the situation "shameful and unusual."

They said that they would attempt to remain in the United States until the close Friday of the 14th triennial congress of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists. After that, they said, they will board their airplane and "voluntarily withdraw from United States territory."

The Cubans added that it was a "farcity" to believe that they had tried to enter the United States for any other reason than to attend the congress. "Our country, as the first sugar cane producer in the world, cannot be excluded from a

meeting of this kind," the statement said.

Their detention, the Cubans said, "makes clear once more the blocking policy of the United States Government against our country" and showed that "the United States is not an adequate country for international events."

They said that Cuba's policy was to let all countries take part in "international scientific, cultural and sportive meetings" that are held in Cuba.

The delegation consists of 19 cane technicians led by Rafael Francia Mestre and three crew members of their chartered Cubana Airlines turboprop plane.

The Cubans sent in their registration form and deposits for the congress, in which scientists and businessmen from 53 countries are participating, last summer. However, in September, the State Department refused to issue them visas.

Last Tuesday, the group landed at New Orleans International Airport without advance warning. They were put under guard at a nearby motel as illegal aliens and moved to the bachelor officers quarters at the naval air base on Thursday. Their airplane is still under guard at the airport.

Today's hearing was held before Herman L. Bookford of Washington, a special inquiry officer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Dr. Vladimir Cebis of the Czech Embassy, which has represented Cuba's interests in the United States since 1961, also attended.

The proceedings were largely formal. Mr. Bookford said that moral arguments about

the Cubans' right to attend the conference were not relevant to immigration laws, which require that all entering aliens have visas.

He asked the Cubans their names and birthdates, examined

their passports—all of which were new and had been issued July 12, 1971—and then gave his ruling that the Cubans could not lawfully enter the country.

If the five-member appeals

board upholds Mr. Bookford's ruling, the Cubans can still take their case to the United States Court of Appeals. Beyond that, the case could go to the Supreme Court if the Court accepted it.