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81 of 150 Shoot Way Past Cuban Lines, Reach Guantanamo and Fly to Florida

Rest of Band Is Killed or Seized-Survivors Are Accepted by U.S.

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Jan. 8 - A group of 81 Cubans shot their way past Cuban Army guards yesterday and entered the United States base at Guantamo. They arrived in Miami today as refugees.

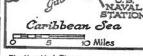
It was the largest number of Cubans ever to flee at one time since Fidel Castro came to power 10 years ago.

United States officials refused but the Cubans arrived this Guantanamo base. morning at the Coast Guard's two Navy C-135 aircraft from Guantánamo.

According informed to Cuba's eastermost province.

They were armed and when they approached the base somewhere on its 17.4-mile perimeter while processing went on at from as far away as Havana. soldiers from the crack Frontier ter, known as Freedom House, Continued on Page 3, Column 1







The U.S. base at Guantanamo, shown in black on both maps

captured and 12 to 15 killed them in the United States. in the attempt to reach the

they were attacked by Cuban the Miami Cuban-Refugee Cen-

to discuss details of the break, Battalion, which surrounds the near the Miami airport. Members of the group were being The sources said that at least released as relatives or friends Opa-Locka Air Station aboard 30 of the Cubans had been pledged to provide lodging for

Other recently According to informed sources, the refugees were part of a group of at least 150 men, women and children who gathered secretly near the Guantánamo Naval Base on the southern coast of Oriente, wire enclosure around the base. Cubans said that tight internal the guards.

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The group was reported to consist of 46 men, 13 women and 22 children.

This was one of the most spectacular escapes from Cuba in a history of dramatic flights. Small boats and even inner tubes have been used to cross 90 miles to the United

States.
There is an airlift that brings refugees to the United States five times a week from Varadero Beach, Cuba, under an agreement between the United

States and Cuba. Under the agreement, the names of those whom the two Governments regard as eligible for the airlifts form the so-called Joint Consolidated Lists, from which Havana selects pas-sengers for the Varadero-Miami flights.

Cuban males between 15 and 26 years of age, and sometimes echnicians and specialists, are not permitted to leave.

When a Cuban applies, an inventory of all his possessions,

including household articles and savings accounts, is taken

by the authorities.

He cannot sell or give away any of the inventoried items, most of which he is obliged to turn over to the stste. He is permitted to take with him

only a few personal belongings, but no valuables.
More important, every able-bodied future refugee is sent to

bodied future refugee is sent to work in agriculture for a year. Those whose names are now approved may expect to wait two years before being able to leave.

This airlift, in operation more than three years, has brought over 131,000 Cubans to the United States. It is estimated that over 400,000 Cuban refugees live in the United States, half on the greater Miami area.

Steady Trickle to Base

In the 10 years of the Castro regime, there has been a steady trickle of refugees seeking refnge at Guantanamo although United States officials have never officially recognized these escapes.

The Guantanamo Base was granted to the United States through a 1903 treaty that provides that fugitives from Cuban vides that fugitives from Cuban instice must immediately be turned over to the Cuban authorities. It also requires that persons entering the base, except for Cuban employes who have work permits, must pass through Cuban immigration entered.

control. reluctance of United The reluctance of United States officials to discuss the most recent break stemmed from the possibility that this incident would provoke even more friction with Cuba over the future of the base.

Premier Castro's position has been that he would not chal-lenge the treaty, but that in time Cuba would present her claims internationally for the recovery of Guantanamo.

Base Serves U.S. Fleet

Guantánamo is a 45-suare-Guantanamo is a 45-suaremile base that exists to serve the United States fleet. It contains ship-repair facilities and a naval supply depot. An average of 130 vessels a year, manned by 45,000 to 60,000 men, visit the base for up to

10-week periods of shakedown or refresher training.

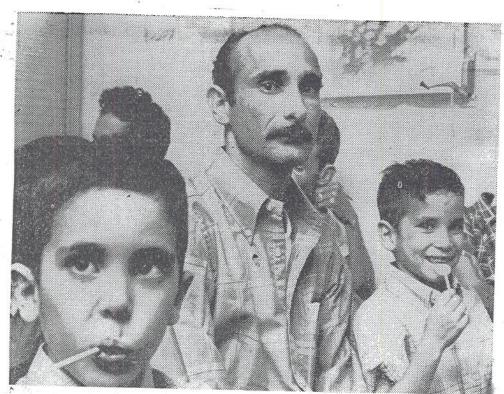
Three years ago it was estimated that Premier Castro had spent \$6-million to \$15-million to make a no man's land and military zone out of a wide strip

of terrain adjoining the base.
An elaborate but militarily erratic system of obstacles and fortifications was said to have been constructed around the fence separating the United States enclave from the rest of Cuba.

To the men stationed there, the base is known as Gitmo from its official abbreviation "GTMO," used in correspondence and communications.



Eight of the Cuban refugees who escaped to the Guantanamo naval base posing for photographers on their arrival yesterday at Freedom House in Miami. The refugees, mostly younger men, refused to talk to newsmen about escape.



A father and his sons, part of the refugee group, wait to be processed at a Miami refugee center. They refused to give their names for fear of endangering relatives in Cuba.