

Merry-Go-Round

E0220 AD

Warning to U.S. By Cuban Exiles



Slightly longer column filed ~~Foreign~~ ^{Foreign} Ad, same date.
Cubans,

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THE FRAGMENTED Cuban organizations in the United States, joining together for the first time in over a decade, have quietly served notice on the State Department that they will wage underground warfare, if necessary, to thwart a detente with Fidel Castro.

In their meetings in Washington, they have openly compared themselves to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which has been carrying on terrorist warfare in the Middle East.

Both moderate and militant groups have advised that they will seek a peaceful solution first but, if that fails, they will engage in "urban guerrilla action" within Cuba.

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THE EXILE groups fear the Castro regime will be legitimized by the Organization of American States and U.S. diplomatic recognition. Thus, the leaders of the largest anti-Castro organizations met in Washington on November 1 and formed an umbrella group called "Cubania Beligerante," or belligerent Cubans.

Their numbers include a past president of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Prio, plus an ex-president of the Cuban Congress, businessmen, educators and former Cuban military officers.

Following their Washington meetings, the Cuban leaders solemnly signed a declaration of common purpose. They then

delivered a copy of the document to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Harry Shlaudeman.

Their covenant states that they "cannot co-exist with dictatorship. . . . There can be neither peace nor freedom under the Marxist-Leninist definition of peaceful co-existence."

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THEN, the document concludes enigmatically that "under certain internal and international conditions a new strategy may be adopted to reach the liberation of Cuba regardless of the consequences." The Cubania Beligerante explained that this means if all else fails, they will become a U.S.-based PLO dedicated to terrorizing Fidel Castro.

They will "campaign against Castro" in league "with elements within Cuba and without CIA help," they advised Washington.

The fact that the anti-Castro organizations have agreed on anything is an extraordinary event in itself. There are an estimated one million Cubans scattered across the United States, and they have formed several dozen exile groups.

Only half a dozen or so, however, are considered by U.S. authorities to be effective. The usual pattern, one government official has told us, "is for the members of the group to fight, fragment and form new splinter groups."