

## 'El Regreso' Is Distant

# Cuba's Rebel Exiles Fall on Hard Times

MIAMI — (AP) — Cuban counter-revolution has fallen on bad times.

Twenty or more militant organizations once plotted the overthrow of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro in smoky meeting halls, in Miami's "Little Havana" district. Now, 13 years later, there are only about half a dozen active groups, and some of these are "revolutionary" in name only.

The rest have given up the battle, turned their attention elsewhere or gone into hibernation.

### Solo Member

One exists only as a nameplate on a battered, unpainted door at the top of a steep flight of rickety stairs over a restaurant. Another only on a calling card in the wallet of its portly "director-general," the organization's only member.

Besides Castro's endurance, the exile cause has been further demoralized by conflicts, jealousies and rivalries among the leaders of its few active groups.

And the disunity has never been more pronounced than it is at present, with growing divisions among its frustrated leaders as they jockey for favor among Miami's 300,000 refugees.

The common objective, "El Regreso" — the return — appears more distant with each passing day.

### Castro Tightens Hold

Castro has used the time to strengthen his power and communism's hold on the island.

Sporadic hit-and-run attacks are still being carried out against the island, but on a diminishing scale and with even fewer results than in the past. Political observers note that Castro gains substantial propaganda value from such commando raids

by depicting them as coming from the powerful United States against his small, defenseless country.

Some of the attacks against the island have led to confusion and dismay even among this country's exile colony.

One newly formed organization is being widely accused of perpetrating a gigantic hoax by claiming a fictitious "Cuban incursion," faking injuries to its participants and falsifying "on-the-scene" photos.

### Threatens Suit

The leader of the expedition, former Cuban Supreme Court Justice Francisco Alabau Trelles, has threatened to sue his critics.

The latest documented attack against the Communist island was carried out by members of a movement headed by a Cuban-born American citizen, Jose Elias de la Torriente.

Torriente, a 68 year old semi-retired businessman, claimed that his Cuban Forces of Liberation had made a landing at the Port of Sama, on the north coast of Oriente Province, and destroyed a power station and other "strategic installations" while killing and wounding a number of Castro's soldiers.

The Cuban radio acknowledged the Oct. 12 attack but said no landing had taken place and that the American-backed "mercenaries" had killed only two soldiers and wounded four villagers.

### Many Alienated

Torriente's plan for an all-out war to eradicate Communism from Cuba had been two years in the making. His idea of a unifying movement of all exiles attracted much popular support in the beginning, but uncharacteristic secrecy about its plans and failure to meet self-imposed

deadlines for action alienated many.

The raid was seen as too little and too late by most refugee leaders, and Torriente has been unable to muster the support he had hoped for.

Alpha 66, perhaps the best known and the most militant of all such groups, continues its 8 year old policy of "limited warfare" against the Castro regime. But its last known activity — a mini-invasion of the island by a small band of infiltrators — took place in mid-1970.

Alpha's strength appears to lie in its historic roots and the fact that it has actually sent men onto the island while others only claim to have done so.

"Limited, or guerrilla-type, warfare is the only solution to overthrowing Castro and Communism," says Alpha's secretary-general, Andres Nazario Sargen. "It is suicide and stupid to attempt to do it any other way."

Another instance of exile confusion and bickering over how to accomplish the exiles' dream of regaining their homeland came last Nov. 13.

Several armed men dressed in army fatigues and wearing black masks invaded the Miami Spanish-language radio station WQBA, tied up two announc-

ers and broadcast a taped anti-Castro proclamation.

However, officials branded the invaders as Communists who "are trying to cause trouble and confusion" among the refugee colony.