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Comment:

New Group Working to Oust Castro

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Castro's mounting troubles are raising Cuban exile hopes for a "Cuban solution" for their country's tragedy. This is the overthrow of Castro and the expulsion of communism by Castro's own power apparatus.

A new Cuban exile group made up mostly of former officers of Castro's Rebel Army are working on a plan to make this dream come true. They forswear any kind of invasion of Cuba. Their aim is to build a bridge over which disaffected officers in Cuba's Rebel Army can safely cross over to the West.

The group, called the Cuban Liberating Army, are suggesting to Castro's Army the following steps:

- The Rebel Army should form a Junta of top officers and name a new "Directorate" for the Cuban Revolution.

- The Directorate should summon a "Mediating Commission" made up of Latin Americans, Western Europeans and representatives of "the Afro-

Asian world" to "facilitate the peaceful retirement of the Russian troops." The Commission would also obtain from Russia and the U. S. "guarantees" that Cuba people may freely choose the form of government they want.

- All those officials and others who chose communism would be allowed to leave with the Russian forces.

- The Directorate would hold a Constituent Assembly in eighteen months and elections twelve months thereafter.

The Cuban Liberating Army, now working to infiltrate Castro's Army with this plan, further say there should be no bloodbath. Political prisoners should be freed and all "peaceful" exiles helped to return.

To replace Castro's ramshackle travesty on a communist state, the group wants free enterprise re-established, with reforms. Central planning is to be abandoned.

An interesting proposal is that net profits should be divided

"proportionally" among investors, management and the workers. Land is to be facilitated "to those who work it." A Claims Commission will be set up to give people whose properties were seized a "participation" in them or in new businesses. The schools and the social organization are to be cleansed of totalitarianism.

In essence, this program would turn the Cuban Revolution that Castro betrayed back to its starting point. It is a fabulous plan and we can only hope it will oust Castro bloodlessly as it is designed to do.

The big question is of course whether Russia's military presence can be "talked" out of Cuba. The Liberating Army believes it can if a New World military blockade is thrown around Cuba when Castro's Rebel Army moves to dump him.

Such a blockade, of course, would bring on what is many Washington policy makers' almost panic fear—another U. S.—Russian confrontation.