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By JAMES P. LUCIER:

## Cuban Exiles Hear of

# Coup Against Castro Planned by Junta

Down in Miami, hope springs eternal in the Cuban exile's breast. It springs irrationally, too, in view of the continued rebuff and betrayal which, squidlike, is ejected by the State Department as a cover for its operations. But last week, reports were afloat which may be the basis for Senator Barry Goldwater's warning that the Cuban situation was ripe for exploitation by President Johnson.

The stories, pieced together from various sources, say that a military junta inside Cuba is ready to overthrow Castro if the U. S. will extend recognition. However, the State Department and the CIA reportedly are backing a "limited" response action on Cuba, cast in the political mold of the Gulf of Tonkin assault. Apparently, this would consist of small, ineffectual exile landings timed for late October.

LAST WEEK, three men surfaced from the Miami underground claiming to be representatives of "The Republic of Cuba in Arms." Their names are Commandante Rosendo Diaz, Eduardo Sotolongo, and David Cabezas, Jr. Commandante Diaz said that they had arrived at the exile reception center at Opalacka on August 16 asking to see Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Mann, but that "certain persons" had given them the run-around. The "certain persons" are assumed to be government representatives.

On September 8, however, the trio eluded their watchful hosts, and told their story on the Alan Courtney show, a three-hour radio program on station WINZ in Miami. The strategy was to force the issue upon the State Department, as well as to broadcast a report to Cuba. Castro is well aware of the junta; about three weeks ago, news-media carried reports of the execution of 54 officers and men in Las Villas province for suspected counter-revolutionary activities.

According to Commandante Diaz, the trio has a two-fold mission: To seek assurances that the projected revolt will not become "another Hungary," and to prevent the participation of CIA-backed exile invaders. The junta declines to seek outside participation because it fears another regime of "democratic people's socialism."

Ever since the failure to contact Assistant Secretary Mann, the trio has been working with American anti-Communist leaders in Miami. Their most important adviser has been John Martino, the American businessman who spent more than three years in Castro's prisons on a trumped-up charge, after the American Embassy in Havana declined to assist him.

DIAZ says that there remain about 10,000 Soviet troops in Cuba, although they are restricted to military bases. He says that Castro still has four 34-foot intermediate range ballistic missiles, mounted on mobile launching pads, capable of hitting Washington or Panama. He brought with him a suppressed copy of Havana's El Mundo, containing a photograph of three of these missiles on parade January 2. The edition was said to be destroyed when Castro decided not to publicize the existence of the missiles further. American experts have identified these as an older type of Soviet surface-to-surface missiles.

Diaz also says that there are six underground installations for supersonic radio-controlled planes that can be catapulted into the air in case the air strips are knocked out. Three are in Pinar del Rio, and three at Cayo Fragaso. He estimates that there are about 40,000 "technicians" in civilian dress from satellite countries.

What the junta fears most, says Diaz, is that the Johnson Administration will stand idly by during an election campaign, as the Eisenhower Administration did during the Hungarian revolt. The junta is said to be seeking quick recognition, rather than military support or outside help. It does not expect to engage the Soviet troops in battle, and it believes that with Castro gone the Soviet Union would

not risk a fight in an area of high U. S. concern. However, if the U. S. stayed neutral, the revolt must necessarily collapse, or be crushed by Soviet troops.

The junta is also making overtures to France and West Germany.

OBSERVERS in Miami believe that the administration disapproves of a crisis of this magnitude before the election. The State Department is said to favor a modest confrontation which

would not seriously jeopardize Soviet interests, but which would create a tough image in U. S. headlines. Policy-planning is said to take its cue from Senator Fulbright's expressed belief that Cuba is a minor annoy-

ance, which must be weighed against overall gains in appeasement and accommodation.

These observers note that many Cuban exiles in the U. S. have disappeared in recent months, while their wives and households are supported by mysterious payroll checks, in CIA fashion. Popular belief holds that these men are in training in Central America for raids to be led by Manuel Artime. The Artime group says that it is supported by private individuals.

Critics of the Johnson administration in Washington and Miami charge bitterly that the President's style of political compromise calls for concessions to every noisy interest. They be-

lieve that the President considers Cuba a dead issue from a practical standpoint, but intends to mollify his Cuban critics by covert support of Artime or similar groups. If the Diaz report of a military junta were to materialize into action, it would upset this strategy of accommodation.

ON THE radio show on WINZ, Commandante Diaz read the following proclamation:

"Declaration of the Republic of Cuba in Arms to the Government of the United States of America and to the rest of the peoples of the free world. That the people of Cuba are ready and prepared for an armed uprising with enough resources of our own to liberate our country:

"This plan has been in the making since October 8, 1962, on which date the Junta was formed and proclaimed from the mountains of Cuba. This proclamation was later published in the U. S. A. and other countries of the free world in April of 1963.

"Since that time, many members of the underground have been sent out of Cuba and they have tried to inform the free world of the decision of the Cuban people to confront the enemy invaders and the handful of traitors who suppress our peoples and to engage in battle the forces of international Communism."

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