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Sec 5 Cuba

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Para 3 F. CASTRO

Para 3 F. TORROELLA

Cuba Refugee Discounts Rebel's 'Recent' Arrest

A Cuban refugee living in San Jose claimed today that Fidel Castro's government had "blatantly lied" in its reports of an alleged recent round-up of would-be assassins.

Castro's Ministry of Interior announced Sunday that it had arrested 12 men, identified as CIA agents, who plotted to assassinate the Cuban premier.

One of the men was listed as Luis Torroella, 30, a Cuban citizen. He was arrested in Havana, the government said.

A "close friend" of Torroella, who has been living in San Jose since his escape from Cuba last No-

vember, says Torroella's arrest is "definitely not true." The refugee, who asked to be unnamed because he still has relatives in Cuba, said Torroella has been in Cuban prisons since April, 1961.

"I'm sure this is on record in Washington, D.C.," the Cuban said. "These are trumped-up charges."

"Torroella and I both worked for the Ministry of Treasury. He worked actively against the Castro regime, and was arrested in Oriente province. About three or four weeks ago, he was transferred to Cuban fortress in Havana," the refugee said. "This sort of thing has happened many times, but this time it's easy to refute their claim that he was recently arrested."

Many Cuban natives, both pro-Castro and anti-Castro, are said to be living in the San Jose area.