

Cuban Army Says Small Rebel Force Lands On East Shore

By GEORGE KAUFMAN

HAVANA, May 24 (AP)—The army reported a small rebel force landed in eastern Cuba early today from a yacht out of Miami, Fla., under orders of exiled ex-President Carlos Prio Socarras.

Two of the 27-man landing party were captured. The army said it is in pursuit of others in the rugged countryside.

The army quoted the captives as saying they are not followers of Fidel Castro, rebel leader who landed from Mexico months ago and has been ranging the eastern Cuba mountains with a guerrilla force.

The captives were reported to have said they shunned Castro "because he is allied with the Communists."

A recent invasion of the presidential palace in Havana in an effort to capture or kill President Fulgencio Batista was attributed to students allied with Castro. About 40 men were killed during the palace invasion.

Today's landing was at Cabonico Bay near Mayari on the north coast of Oriente Province.

Castro's band has been eluding government forces in that province for months.

An army spokesman said the rebels' yacht Corintia left Miami last Sunday morning. Prio lives there in exile.

The two men captured were identified as Lazaro Guerra Calderon and Mario Rodriguez Asena. They wore orange armbands bearing the letters 'O. A., initials of the Organization Autentico (Authentic Organization), Prio's party, the army spokesman said.

The two were captured by the Cuban navy and turned over to the army. The navy also confiscated the yacht.

The captives were quoted as saying they had been instructed to say—if captured—that they were from Mexico but that this was untrue.

Informed sources said Calixto Sanchez, an Air Pilots Union official, headed the landing party.

Sanchez had been accused of participating in the attack on the presidential palace March 13. He was permitted to leave the country at the request of the secretary of the General Labor Confederation, who accompanied him to the airport.

Sanchez' name later appeared on a list of "traitors" circulated by members of the revolutionary movement. Those on the list were accused of not carrying out their part in the palace attack.

A source close to Batista indicated Cuba has no intention of protesting to the U.S. government.

He commented: "Surely the yacht must have obtained a permit for fishing, and later was used to transport the expeditionaries."