U.S. Ready To Push Charges Against 31 Cuban Rebels

Thirty-one rebels arrested in the Florida Keys with arms shipments allegedly bound for Cuba today faced charges which carry penalties of one to three years in prison and $1,000 to $3,000 fines, or both.

In another development, the Department of Justice in Washington stepped into the current wave of anti-Batista agitation on the part of Cuban nationalists residing in South Florida.

Brandon Alvey, a special assistant to the attorney general in the Internal Security Division, is in charge of the investigation before the grand jury and has been instructed to "file any criminal charges which may appear to be warranted, and prosecute any trials which may result."

Mr. Alvey has been directed to "file informations and conduct any kind of legal proceeding, civil or criminal, including grand jury proceedings and proceedings before committing magistrates."

Provisions of the federal statutes under which the investigation is to be carried out include Title 18, Sections 959, 960 and 962, and Title 22, Section 611, of the U. S. Code.

These titles and sections cover such matters as persons enlisting in foreign services while in the United States, taking part in an expedition against a friendly na-

do. The men had been under surveillance several days by federal agents who pounced on them at Piney Point on Big Pine Key, about 30 miles north of Key West.

Along with the rebels, authorities seized rifles, sub-machine guns, anti-tank gun, knives, uniforms and medical supplies and munitions stacked aboard the 38-foot Yacht Philomar III.

The 31 persons arrested yester-

day are in custody in Key West awaiting arrangements to have them brought to Miami.

Rebel’s Trip Halted

KEY WEST, Nov. 20—U. S. agents unload military supplies from the yacht Philomar III after taking a revolutionary band of 31 Cubans into custody. The agents said the men intended to sail to Cuba in the yacht, which was loaded with arms, ammunition and medical supplies. They were believed headed for Fidel Castro’s revolutionary forces.