

# 33 CUBAN REBELS SEIZED IN ARMS-LOADED BOAT

## U.S. Men Board Craft Near Dania

By MILT SOSIN

Reporter of The Miami News

Thirty-three men and \$10,000 worth of military equipment and medical supplies have been seized by U. S. Customs agents and Border Patrol inspectors in a dramatic boarding party in the Inland Waterway between Dania and Port Everglades.

The seizure took place last night after the vessel had been under surveillance since last Friday.

The 33 men were Cubans or Americans of Cuban descent who have been living in the Miami area and in New York City. They wore, or had on their persons, armbands with the words, "Comando Calixto," and the initials "OA" in the center, separated by an arrow.

### NAME HONORS HERO

(Comando Calixto is a rebel command named in honor of Calixto Sanchez White, who led an expeditionary force from here last year and was killed later in combat near Holguin, Cuba. The initials "OA" stand for Organizacion Autentico, headed by former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarras.

(Dr. Manuel Antonio de Varona, former Cuban Prime Minister and close adviser of Dr. Prío, said Dr. Prío knew nothing of the ill-fated expeditionary force and that the revolutionaries were acting on their own initiative.)

Border Patrol Inspector Raymond Bond, who is on special detail investigating smuggling operations, was in charge of the five-man Border Patrol detail in the seizure.

### TWO DIVE IN WATER

One man suffered an injured right hand when a dynamite cap exploded as he sought to insert it in a can of explosive to blow up the 60-foot craft on which the men were captured, according to Bond. The Border Patrol inspector identified this man as Frank Bestard, 36. He is in Broward General Hospital.

Two men dove overboard as the

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Miami News Photo By Charis Trainor

Customs Agent Raymond Bond With Confiscated Cuban Rebel Weapons

# Nab 33 In Boat With Rebel Arms

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boarding party jumped on the craft. One was captured but the other, believed to be the owner of the boat, swam underwater until he reached a mangrove thicket on the west side of the Inland Waterway and made good his escape.

Customs Agent W. B. Lankford, of the Miami office, said that the capture of the men and materiel was the result of a "combined operation" between Charles E.

Wyatt, supervising customs agent in Miami, and Chief Border Patrol Inspector Richard E. Batchelor, of the Tampa office. He also said that Dania Police Chief George Williams cooperated.

Lankford said that after information had been received that the 60-footer Harpoon was tied up at the Dania Marina and was the scene of "suspicious activity," a watch was put on the craft. When the watch began, the arms and other supplies apparently had al-

ready been put aboard.

Yesterday the boat was moved to another marina near the Dania bridge on the Inland Waterway. There men began to drift aboard in two's and three's.

## CHASE IN WATERWAY

Lankford, joined by Customs Agent Wallace D. Shanley and Bond, reinforced by Border Patrol Inspectors Charles V. Williams, Clyde Gurley, Tiler Winton and Anthony Provenzo, were ready aboard two Border Patrol craft.

The Harpoon headed north in the Inland Waterway, apparently intending to make for the open sea at Port Everglades. But the faster 45-foot Border Patrol craft Donald C. Shute easily overtook the Harpoon and drew alongside.

Pistols drawn, Lankford, Shanley and Bond leaped aboard as the Border Patrol boat drew even. Bond headed for the wheelhouse where six men were congregated. As he did so, the helmsman locked the door on the side from which Bond was approaching, stepped out the other door, and leaped overboard. Another man followed.

Bond, who speaks fluent Spanish, ordered the Cubans in the wheelhouse to take the wheel and go straight ahead. In the meantime, the two Customs agents had made a hasty survey, and found 26 others below deck.

## RUNS BOAT AGROUND

Those below broke open porthole windows and began heaving out mortars, sub-machine guns, rifles, and anything else that would fit through the circular apertures.

They were ordered to stop, and obey the commands. Suddenly, however, the temporary helmsman, after a rapid interchange in Spanish with others in the wheelhouse, spun the wheel and ran

the Harpoon aground, throwing those aboard off balance. This apparently was to have been the signal for an attempt at a break for liberty, but prompt response by the three officials aboard and the presence of the Border Patrol boat with two of its .50 caliber machine guns uncovered and ready for action made the captives reconsider.

The Shute towed the Harpoon into a lagoon and the prisoners were taken off on a tug and sent to the Broward County jail. The helmsman who leaped had dis-

appeared, but the second man who jumped overboard was captured a short time later.

## DOCTORS IN BAND

Lankford said the men captured would be charged with conspiracy to violate the U. S. Neutrality Act by illegally exporting arms.

The materiel seized included a quantity of medical supplies. Bond said there were three doctors among those captured — two from Tampa and one from Miami. He said that the documents found in the wheelhouse indicated that the boat was owned by William R. Wright, of Daytona Beach.

Some of the guns thrown over-

board were recovered by Border Patrol Inspector Provenzo, who gained experience as a skin diver while a member of a U. S. Navy underwater demolition team.

The supplies and equipment were unloaded at a dock at Port Everglades, and taken to a warehouse. Among the materiel were howitzers, sub-machine guns, M-1 and Springfield army rifles, carbines, walkie-talkie radios, mess kits, military clothing, and assorted supplies, and several pairs of coveralls with the insignia of the "26th-of-July" movement.

Most of the captured men wore

combat fatigue clothes.

The doctors involved were identified as Rafael T. Gonzalez, 29, Francisco Carcia, 37, and Rafael Sigüero.

Others in custody include O. M. Ramos, P. L. Lopez, Alberto Lara, Frank Pujol, D. A. Esteban, Anibal Velaz, Abelardo Suero, Hector Liano, Placido Gonzalez, Carlos Santana, Julio Lleros, Rodolfo Vasquez, Humberto Sanchez, Carlos Fonseca, Jesus Otero, Enrique Pazos, Omar Oyala, Rafael Cuebar, Hector Delfin, Miguel Roche, Julio Hernandez, Gino Pastrano, Carlos Hernandez, Jose

Garcia, and Pedro Gonzalez.

At least half the captives were mere youths, 18 or 19 years old. Two gave their names as the Spanish equivalent of John Doe. Names of several others were unavailable.