

Cuban Exile Rivero Raps 'False Leaders'

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By AL BURT
Herald Latin America Editor

Controversial Felipe Rivero charged Wednesday that "ignorance and stupidity" by "false leaders" keeps the Cuban exile community 90 per cent confused about politics.

Rivero heads the Cuban Nationalist Association, which believes exiles have a moral right to violate any country's laws if it helps fight Fidel Castro.

Last week, the association rigged up two bazookas inside a suitcase and used a time clock to trigger them against the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa, Canada.

Though he claims considerable damage (the embassy said there was little), Rivero regrets no Cubans were killed.

Wednesday, he leveled a sweeping charge against exile leadership equally as startling. The comments are certain to stir up a new storm over his already controversial activities.

He divided exile leaders or groups into four categories: "false" leaders, "non-leaders", "leaders of the past" and some for whom he finally had a work of praise.

He criticized the following for "false" leadership:

Luis Conte Aguero, broadcaster and head of the Sentinels of Liberty. "He has had seven years of conferences. The Sentinels don't exist. If he gets a letter, that's a Sentinel."

Manuel Artime, head of the Revolutionary Recovery Movement and onetime civilian leader of the Bay of Pigs invasion. "The golden boy, known for his Central America activities. He had everything twice and threw it down."

Manuel Ray, head of the Revolutionary Junta. "He is famous for his picnics in the Bahamas" (referring to May



Felipe Rivero
... critical militant

1964, when Ray was picked up by the British in the Bahamas after having promised to be fighting inside Cuba).

Cuban Representation in Exile (RECE). "Their dream is to name a president. An enormous bureaucratic apparatus. Famous for bombing the Havana aquarium and killing two fish" (a November 1965 raid on the Havana waterfront which hit a hotel, apartment house and aquarium).

Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Workers' Front (FORDO). "Anarchists and leftists. Just listen to one of their broadcasts. The Communists at least have discipline."

Revolutionary Unity (UR). "It is a CIA agency."

Among "Non-leaders," he named Armando Fleites and the Second National Front of the Escambray-Alpha 66.

"The name is too long for them to be a revolutionary group. This is a political group which believes in the 'betrayed revolution' theory."

He listed these men as "leaders of the past":

FULGENCIO BATISTA, former Cuban dictator. "A ghost."

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, former president of Cuba. "Out of reality."

CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING, head of the 1940 Constitutional Assembly and now of the Free Cuba Patriotic Movement. "A professional politician. It is not yet time for him. He thinks he will be the Cuban Balaguer (Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer)."

He said the last three "represent a traditional feeling of a certain minority which still believes in going back to the past. Whether we agree with them or not, they are Cubans with a Cuban thought and Cuban appeal."

Rivero praised the following:

Orlando Bosch, head of the Insurreccional Movement for Revolutionary Recovery. "He has not expressed an ideology but at least he is doing what he can." Bosch's group has carried out a number of hit-run raids on Cuba and subscribes to Rivero's theory that exiles have a moral right to break the law if necessary.

Emilio Nunez Portuondo, former Cuban diplomat and onetime president of the UN Security Council. "He is one of our more respected and intelligent internationalists. We do not agree with him all the time but we respect him."

Christian Nationalist Movement. "They are a little out of reality but we share some ideas." This movement also has advocated international terrorism against communism.

The Confused Cuban Exiles. "Ninety per cent of them. They just don't know what to do."

Rivero's organization, he claims, is set up with a national chief (Rivero), Santiago Gonzalez of New York as vice chief, Ignacio Novo of New York as secretary-general and a working executive directorship called El Cuadrilateral. Besides Rivero, it includes Manolo Perez Salvador, Evaristo Garcia Jr. and Miguel San Pedro.

In addition to these, there is a Council of 30, and what Rivero calls "autonomous" action cells in foreign countries. These cells carry out the terrorism and, according to Rivero, reveal their actions to him later.

This arrangement is set up in an effort to keep Rivero out of trouble with federal authorities. He is in the U.S. under Cuban refugee status, technically regarded as parole. So far, he has been questioned but no action taken.

Neither is Rivero concerned about the possibility that Castro agents in south Florida might try to retaliate against him.

"Castro's best agents are the ignorant and uninformed anti-Communists here," Rivero said. "With enemies like that, he doesn't need any friends."

Targets of Rivero's Attack Call It Political Chit-Chat

By AL BURT

Herald Latin America Editor

Angry Cuban exile leaders Wednesday rejected Felipe Rivero's charges against them as a meaningless exercise in politics.

Mario Seigle, head of the organization Revolutionary Unity (UR), suggested Rivero either should obey U.S. laws or get out of the country.

"We don't depend on any agency," Seigle said of the UR. "We are allies of our

allies. Unidad was formed inside Cuba in November of 1960, and not in exile like Rivero's group was.

"We are here as guests of this country. The day we don't agree with their policy we'll leave the country instead of remaining here like Rivero, who is enjoying all the guarantees the laws allow him.

"I challenge Rivero to see which of us gets to Cuba first."

Jorge Mas, speaking for the Cuban Representation in Exile (RECE), commented "We do not answer in order to preserve a principle always maintained by us of not getting involved in polemics, which only favor communism. Silence and action will be our answer."

Diego Medina, speaking for the Second National Front of the Escambray-Alph 66: "Our actions and activities speak for themselves. They don't leave us any time to get involved in sterile polemics with other exiles. Our conduct has been not to attack or criticize even those who have attacked us."

Ossorio Davila, speaking for the Revolutionary Junta of Manolo Roy: "To answer these charges would be to touch off polemics which in general would be detrimental to the cause."

Manuel Artime of the Revolutionary Recovery Movement said the charges were not worthy of reply.

Luis Conte Aguero declined comment and a spokesman for the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Workers Front (FORDC) said the organization would hold a meeting to decide whether it should answer Rivero.

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