

54 exiles begin 'dialogue' with Castro

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Miami banker Bernardo Benes and 53 other Cuban exiles were to meet today with President Fidel Castro in the first two-day dialogue conference in Havana to discuss the release of political prisoners.

Details of the meeting were announced by Cuba's Foreign Ministry after it released the names of the 14 political prisoners freed last week in Cuba. Those 14 men are expected to enter the United States soon.

A spokesman for the foreign ministry said the 14 have been freed "as a gesture of goodwill." But he would not say if the prisoners and their relatives would be allowed to leave with the commission members after the meeting.

"That depends on the U.S. screening committee that arrived here last week and how fast they move," he said.

The political prisoners are screened by a special U.S. Justice Department task force to make sure spies or criminals are not allowed to enter the country.

The 54 exile representatives were invited to Havana by the Cuban government after Castro suggested

discussions with the exile community during a press conference Sept. 6.

Today's conference at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana was to be open to the press for the opening ceremonies but delegates did not know if reporters would be allowed to attend the actual negotiations with Castro, his cabinet ministers and Cuban legislators.

A spokesman the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry said discussions will center on the political prisoner release, the reunion of Cuban families and possible visits to the island by exiles.

Also to be heard, he added, are topics which have been presented to the government by individual members of the delegation.

Those issues include: the right of exiles to vote in Cuban elections; dual citizenship problems; possession of a Cuban identification card; participation in Cuban mass organizations; constitutional problems involved in preserving the right of Cuban citizenship; possibilities of university-level studies and academic research in Cuba.

The leading figure among the 54 representatives is

Benes, who led secret negotiations for 15 months with the Cuban government — with the knowledge of U.S. government officials. Benes also headed a six-member delegation that picked up 46 former political prisoners in last month's first direct flight to Miami.

Benes presented an agenda to Castro dealing exclusively with the questions of release of political prisoners and procedures and priorities for the reunion of Cuban families.

Others in the delegation include several Catholic priests, Bay of Pigs veterans and members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a group of 55 young Cuban exiles which went to Cuba in December 1977 to visit the island and to do volunteer work.

The 14 prisoners released last week and free to travel to the U.S. were identified as:

Alfredo Iselaya Valera, Gabriel Orozco Alcover, Augusto Jose Andion Garcia, Marcelino Leal Rodriguez, Bernardo Flores Ben. Arnoldo Hernandez Luejes, Felipe Sanchez Olivera, Elio Leal Sanchez, Emilio Victor Lufrio Bofill, Celestino Suarez Rodriguez, Manuel del Valle Caral, Jose Domingo Paz Lama, Luis M. Lebreo Jorge and Richardo Leal Sanchez.

A Who's Who of those chosen to begin talks in Havana

The 54 men and women representing Cuban exiles at today's scheduled meeting with President Fidel Castro include:

Bernardo Benes, vice chairman of Continental National Bank of Miami.
Raul Acosta Rubio, Venezuelan journalist and lawyer.
Ramon Agüero Grau, a businessman in the U.S.
Raul Altaga Manresa, a liquor distributor in Puerto Rico and member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.
Guillermo Arias, a Catholic priest in Miami and one of the six-member delegation who went Oct. 21 to pick up 46 political prisoners in Havana.
Cecilio Arrastia, a U.S. Presbyterian Church pastor and member of the Cuban Committee Pro-Justice and Freedom.
Jose Arron, a Yale University professor and member of the Cuban-American Committee for the Normalization of Relations with Cuba.
Miguel Betancourt, a member of the Committee for the Reunification of Families in the U.S.
Roseno Canto Hernandez, journalist and member of the Committee Pro-Reunification of Cuban Families in Spain.
Lourdes Casal Valdes, psychologist and member of board of director of "Arenito," a Spanish-language magazine published in New York.
Heriberto Plew, former Cuban diplomat in Jamaica.
Marcos Raul Correa, a Metro bus driver.
Maria Elena Cos Villar, teacher and member of the Committee Pro-Reunification of Cuban Families in Spain.
Antonio Costales Maurier, a Miami liquor distributor and former Cuban union leader.
Manuel de Dios Unzueta, journalist Diario La Prensa, New York.

Vicente Dopico, Miami art teacher and member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.
Rev. Manuel Espinosa, pastor of the Christian Evangelical Reformed Church in Hialeah.
Osvaldo Estivil, music composer and member of the Cuban Artists in Exile of Miami.
Eduardo Garcia Moure, labor leader of the Central Latinoamericana de Trabajadores (CLAT) of Venezuela.
Ernesto Garcia Rubio, Miami Catholic priest.
Reinol Gonzalez, accountant and former political prisoner released 11 months ago now living in Miami.
Francisco Gonzalez Aruce, economist at the U.S. Labor Department, Washington.
Francisco Gonzalez Muñiz, businessman and Bay of Pigs veteran.
Miguel Gonzalez Pando, instructor, Florida International University.
Jose Hernandez Alvarez, pastor of the Christian Evangelical Reformed Church, Little Havana branch.
Jose Hernandez Fries, psychologist and member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.
Maria Cristina Herrera, sociologist at Miami-Dade Community College South and director of the Instituto de Estudios Cubanos.
Jose Herrero, economist and professor at the University of Puerto Rico.
Felipe Jimenez, painter and teacher in Puerto Rico.
Ofelia Lopez Bautista, businesswoman and member of the Civic Christian Movement.
Sandra Maria Lopez, medical student at the University of Salamanca and member of Antonio Maceo Brigade in Spain.
Raul Lorenzo Ruiz, journalist and writer in Venezuela.
Savaor Maduga Otero, journalist and Bay of Pigs veteran.
Jose Medina Prendes, medical doctor and member of the Committee Pro-Re-

unification of Cuban Families in Spain.
Fernando Mena Rigal, accountant and member of the Committee for the Reunification of Families in the U.S.
Jose Menendez Suarez, a U.S. postal employe.
Gerardo Moreno Martin, owner of Master Cake, Miami.
Eulalio J. Negrin, a community leader in New Jersey.
Enrique Osle Tur, Catholic priest in Puerto Rico.
Mari-Feli Perez-Stable, teacher at State University of New York and member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.
Jose Piedra, painter in the U.S.
Octavio Pino, linguist residing in Florida.
Enrique Puentes Perez, carpenter and member of the Cuban Society in Panama.
Andres J. Reyes, Catholic priest residing in the U.S.
Jose Reyes, Baptist Church Pastor, Palm Springs.
Rosa Rivas Izaguirre, widow of the former owner of El Crisol, a Cuban newspaper.
Michael Germinal Rivas, Boston University professor and member of the Cuban Committee Pro-Justice and Freedom.
Jorge Robledo Lorie, Miami president of the Committee of 100, an organization to free political prisoners.
Enrique Rodriguez Bocanegra, architect and professor of Caracas' Venezuela Catholic University.
Juan M. Rodriguez, lawyer and official of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from Washington.
Jose Suarez Nuñez, journalist residing in Venezuela.
Beatriz Talabere Hirzer, anthropologist, University of Caracas, Venezuela.
Napoleon Vilaboa, Miami reporter.
Manuel Viera Bernal, Methodist Church pastor and member of the Cuban Christian Committee Pro-Justice and Freedom.