

Some Cuban Refugees Get Violent

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Special to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

MIAMI — Anti-Castro Cuban refugees in Miami are reacting violently to a probable rapprochement between this country and Cuba, while the more moderate exiles are attempting to placate U.S. natives in this area who are growing weary of it all.

In the latest incident, three Latins smashed the John F. Kennedy Tower of Friendship in Bayfront Park with a rented truck, almost running over a by-stander in their assault on the torch.

"In 24 years of watching Cuban exiles come and go, I have never witnessed anything comparable to what is going on today in Cuban activist circles," an FBI agent said.

Moderate members of Miami's 350,000 plus Cuban community, however, angered at the destruction of the Torch of Friendship by a trio of their countrymen, vowed it would be restored "without a penny's cost to the taxpayer."

Leading the movement to provide not only the funds but the labor were William Freixas, chairman of the Cuban Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Miami City Commissioner Manolo Reboso.

Earlier, activists bombed a drug store owned by a Cuban (who was thought to be exporting drugs to the ill in his native land), the Latin Chamber of Commerce, two Little Havana supermarkets, and the office of *Replica*, a Spanish publication with a relatively liberal editorial policy.

The Miami News, in an editorial, said in part: "Latin terrorism must be stopped."

Orlando Acosta, a downtown Miami sporting goods store owner, who is a member of the recently created Cuban National Front, declared:

"There are some dedicated militants in the anti-Castro cause who feel impotent to act in the face of history and are desperate."

"The torch was an escape valve," said Angel Ferrer, a

Florida

member of the Accion Sindical Independence group that staged the "symbolic protest" at the Torch.

The Torch of Friendship incident merely underlines activity of the last eight months, when Miami witnessed unprecedented political violence among exile activists.

For the first time since the initial Castro exiles arrived in 1959, a prominent political leader was killed in an execution-style murder, Jose Elias.

Also for the first time, a law-enforcement agent was attacked recently while jogging in the predawn darkness of his suburban home. Two men in a station wagon with lights off tried to run the FBI agent down and hit him in the head as he jumped away.

Perhaps of more significance is the fact that several of

the splinter groups of activists which had gone their own way before are now coordinating their efforts.

Insiders, law-enforcement agents and other observers say the serious activists "have the potential to create local violence."

Probable recognition of the Castro government and the existence of thousands of political prisoners in Cuban jails are believed to be the major reasons for the violence.

"I expect to see much more violence than we have seen so far this year," said a Metro (Greater Miami) Organized Crime Bureau official. "Between the opportunists and the hot heads, we may see 50 more violent incidents by this time next year."

Exiles involved in violence in the Greater Miami area are a minuscule fraction of the 350,000 Cubans living in this area — most Cubans have spoken out against violence.

But, even by conservative estimates some exiles claim that a few thousand Cubans here have been trained by the Central Intelligence Agency to create unrest and direct it against Castro's government in Cuba.

The program is said to include training in sophisticated weapons, explosives and tactical missions into Cuba.

"The illogical thing, the thing that many of us still do not understand is that the Americans trained us to fight communism, and when we try to fight communism they put us in jail," declared activist Ferrer. "You cannot blame us for losing our temper and trying to do something, do anything."