

FATE UNSURE, EXILE LEFT TAPE

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Rodolfo Camps had a feeling he might not come back from his secret trip to Cuba.

So he left a message.

With tears in his eyes, his father, Rodolfo Camps Sr., sat silently Monday night — listening to his son's recorded apologies for not telling him about the trip he had planned for six years.

Rodolfo 25, Feliciano Miguel Sales, 23, and Luis Manuel de la Caridad Zuniga, 23, all Miami Cuban exiles, were arrested in Cuba Thursday and charged by the Castro government with trying to "infiltrate" the island.

In his tape recording, Camps explained why he went back.

"Dear father, the message begins, "I'm sorry to have to tell you in these conditions. I would have loved to talk to you personally, and although maybe nothing will happen, I didn't want to worry you."

His father found the tape Friday after he heard the news on the radio that his son had been captured in Cuba.

THE TAPE was found at young Camps' aunt's house among his belongings, inside a tape recorder. Camps recorded it last week, with the help of his brother, Daniel.

"Papa, I had this idea since I started to make plans to leave Cuba in 1968," his message said.

Camps Jr. served time in a Cuban prison for trying to escape the country illegally in 1968. He and Zuniga escaped from jail and piloted a stolen boat to Miami Jan. 28.

"I planned to return to Cuba to bring you here. And although you and Danielito are here now, the rest of the family is still there, my mother and my son. And I would give my life to bring them back so they can be with us."

"I didn't like Miami. Maybe because my family was not here with me, I could not adapt. But you will know now to excuse me."

"I know I run the risk of death, but that's in God's hands. Whatever happens is because God has wanted it that way, and I put my faith in him."

"I adore you, old man, I hope you excuse me. I hope it's not my turn to die . . . but when one dies trying to get what he wants, he dies satisfied.

"I KNOW I run the risk of death, but that's Miami, but you must also understand my part. I have my son and my mother in Cuba and I have to try to bring them here.

"I'm sorry I don't have you next to me to kiss you and hug you. Let it be God's will, and forgive me."