

Cuban Troops Chasing Rebel Bands Through Mountains

Americans Ask U. S. Navy Unit For Protection

Havana, Cuba—(AP)—Government troops are chasing two rebel bands through the mountains of Oriente Province following a series of sharp clashes with troops of rebel leader Fidel Castro, the army announced today.

Communications with Santiago de Cuba were disrupted and it appeared a general strike was going into effect there. The situation inside the city was reported nearly normal but apparently traffic to and from the city had halted.

16 Rebels Said Killed

An army communique reported 16 rebels and one civilian killed in at least four clashes along major highways in the Oriente sector as the rebels tried to make good their threat of blocking communications in the area.

Reports from Santiago de Cuba said 45 American families there had asked the U.S. Navy to stand by off the coast as a protective measure and to remove them if Castro carried out his threat of "total war" against President Fulgencio Batista.

Government sources denied reports the rebels had captured the port of Manzanillo, a city of 100,000 about 50 miles west of Santiago.

Aid Requested

Reports reaching the capital from Oriente Province said American families, employees of the U. S. government-owned Nicaro nickel plant on the north coast of the province, had sent a request for naval aid to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo.

The base itself cancelled all leaves and took what authorities described as "emergency measures" in preparation for the expected start of an all-out war against the government by Castro's rebels.

About 250 dependents of Navy personnel were moved into the base from nearby Boqueron, Caimanera and Guantanamo City.

Castro has threatened to start his April "blood bath" campaign against Batista in that area.

Extraordinary Powers

Batista, armed with extraordinary powers granted him by the congress Monday night, was preparing the armed forces to meet the rebel threat which provoked a "state of national emergency."

The cabinet approved the extraordinary powers Tuesday night and forwarded it for publication in the "official gazette" which makes it law.

United States May Slate Nuclear Tests

Washington—(AP)—The United States may schedule a new series of nuclear tests next fall or in 1959 unless the Soviet Union agrees to mutual inspection under an international test ban, administration officials reported today.

Criticism of U.S. nuclear policies erupted following Moscow's unilateral cutoff of nuclear tests and disclosure by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles Tuesday that the President and the National Security Council on March 24 considered but rejected a move to halt the forthcoming American nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), chairman of the Senate disarmament subcommittee, called Dulles' disclosure "nothing short of shocking" and said it had been better left unsaid.

Northwestern Mining Group Sets Meeting

The Northwestern Mining Council, Inc., will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Jackson county courthouse auditorium. Les Child, state commissioner of geology and mineral industries for Oregon, will speak.

The council is a non-profit, non-political organization, its officers pointed out.

INDO LOYALISTS TO LAUNCH 'FINAL DRIVE'

Singapore—(AP)—Neutral sources said today in Jakarta the Indonesian government would shortly launch its final drive to crush the Sumatran rebel strongholds of Padang and Bukittinggi.

At the same time the Indonesian army announced it had

opened a "second front" in North Celebes, 1,500 miles to the east, and captured two key towns on the border between North and Central Celebes.

Rebel radio reports from Sumatra indicated the military situation there was bordering on the desperate, with the rebels applying scorched earth tactics as they fell back on their major bases.

The neutral sources in Jakarta predicted, "unless all our information is wrong the Sumatra rebels are going to get clobbered."

The sources said President Sukarno would follow the capture of Bukittinggi and Padang with an announcement of a dramatic new unity program which will incorporate many rebel demands and give more autonomy to the outer islands.

The government announced the capture of the towns of Donggala and Palu in the Celebes but indicated all was not going smoothly in other fighting there.

The army formally admitted a setback at the town of Gorontalo, a seacoast town located on the southern coast of North Celebes, 150 air miles from the rebel center of Manado.

It said loyalist forces which secured the town Feb. 25 were driven back in a counter attack by rebel troops of superior strength. It reported the loyalists putting up "armed resistance" outside the town.

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Captured Cuban Rebels Carry Hunger Strike Into 2nd Week

Brownsville, Tex.—(AP)—Thirty-five captured Cuban rebels carried a hunger strike into its second week today, joined in their starvation protest by rebel groups in New York, Chicago and Miami.

The men have vowed to starve "to the death if necessary" to protest their imprisonment following the scuttling of their heavily-armed expedition to support the forces of Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro against the government of President Fulgencio Batista.

Shipments Protested

They and the other hunger strikers are protesting also continued shipment of U.S. arms to the Batista government.

In Florida Tuesday, 22 Castro supporters were arrested after a demonstration at a railroad station where they believed a delegation of Batista emissaries was passing through on the way to Washington for more arms. Two Cuban nationals were arrested at Key West as they tried to smuggle arms to Castro's forces in an outboard motorboat.

Arrests in Virginia

At Winchester, Va., three men arrested in an allegedly stolen car with a cargo of knives, bayonets and a sawed-off shotgun, said they were part of an army of 1,500 to 2,000 men being trained here to join the Castro forces. They gave their names as Forest Lipscomb, Patrick Patterson and Harry Voelker.

Fourteen of the 35 men held in Brownsville since their ship was rammed by a Coast Guard cutter last Thursday have been transferred from jail cells to Mercy Hospital beds and are being fed intravenously, U.S. Marshal James W. McCarty said.

Most Said U.S. Citizens

Although the formal hunger strike began only after their capture, doctors said the men actually hadn't eaten for two days before that—they

were too busy or too excited.

Most of them are U.S. citizens and residents of New York. The wife of their leader, Araldo Barron of New York, said "most of them fought for this country in World War II or Korea. Now they thought they couldn't stay in this country and do nothing."

Mrs. Barron, who came to Brownsville after her husband's arrest, said many of the men had good jobs in New York. They saved \$20,000, she said, to buy arms and ammunition in Mexico and charter the 70-foot freighter in which they sailed.

New York Hunger Strike

In New York, 14 men and

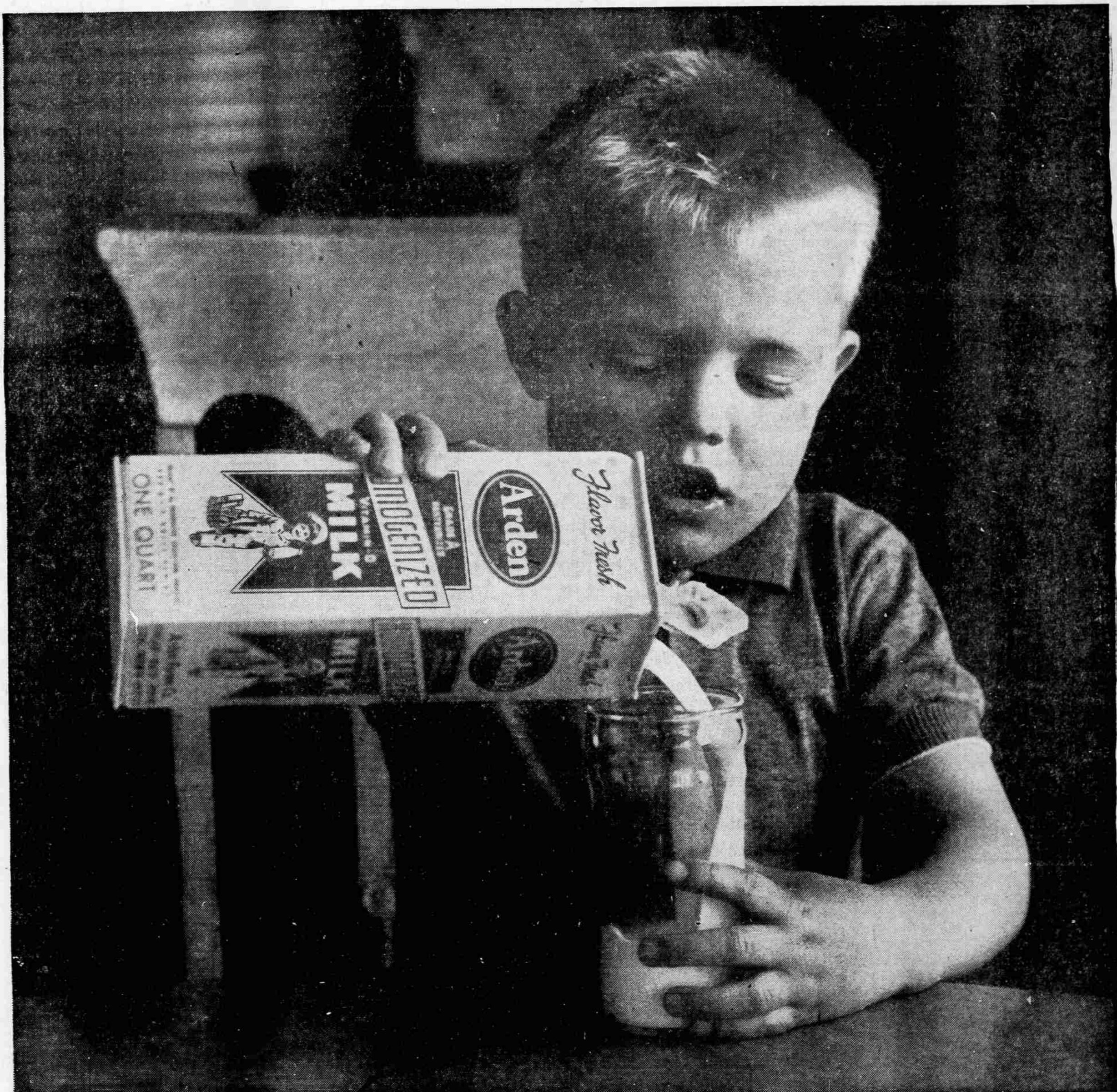
four women members of the Orthodox Committee, headed by Barron, began a hunger strike at 7 p.m. Friday and were still on it today. Of 10 members of the rebel Revolutionary Labor Directorate, only two remained on a similar hunger strike today. Two became ill Monday night and four more were forced to begin eating again late Tuesday night.

Another group of Cubans picketed the U.S. Court House at Chicago with signs protesting the Brownsville capture.

Nine more rebel sympathizers were conducting a "sit-down hunger strike" in the lobby of a Miami television station.

IT SHOULD HAPPEN HERE

Brighton, England—(AP)—Audrey Tindall, 20, was hospitalized Tuesday with heat stroke caused by the sun shining through the plate glass window of a furniture store.

Advanced 1st Aid Class Is Completed

An advanced first aid course was completed yesterday, B. B. Bigham, first aid instructor for the Jackson county chapter, American Red Cross, has announced.

Those who qualified include Pearl R. Tucker, Oral W. Tucker, Thelma Trude, Mrs. Helen Thomas, Charlotte Unruh, Charles F. Chisum, Glen S. Bundy, Roy L. Thompson, Garnet A. Stoltenberg, Gordon H. Wright, Jack H. Nichols and Tim E. Halme.

First aid classes are held in the chapter house at 60 Hawthorne ave., Medford, and persons are urged to register for the course.

Navy Movie Shown at High Y Meeting

Navy Chief Warren Boe showed a film and discusses advantages of joining the Navy at a meeting of the Medford Rogue High Y recently. He was introduced by Larry Anderson, vice president of the group.

The group changed the meeting time from Saturday to Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

ACCUSATION LEVELED

Gainesville, Fla.—(AP)—John Arthur Strickland, 23, a senior honor student at the University of Florida, was on probation today because he interrupted a lecture by poet Robert Frost to accuse the audience of being "dressed-up stuffed shirts."

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