

'Informed Sources' Battle Launched Over Cuban Fiasco

Washington — (UPI) — When President Kennedy announced that the "facts on the matter involving Cuba will come out in due time," he didn't say they would come out fighting.

High-ranking U.S. officials have launched a "battle of informed sources" over what caused the anti-Castro invasion to sink in the swamps of Cuba.

A top official has started Round Two of the fight. He denied there were any intelligence miscalculations involved in the failure. He wouldn't say what he thought did cause it.

His version was that there was no misjudgment of Castro's military power, and no misjudgment of his control over the Cuban people. He said the United States knew how many planes and tanks Castro had and the ability of his forces to use them.

The Other View
This was exactly the opposite of what other equally high officials have said. They said the invasion failed because Castro's forces met the rebels with more planes and other fighting equipment than the United States thought they had.

They also said both Washington and the Cuban rebels underestimated Castro's iron grip on the people, which prevented a general uprising.

Kennedy told his news conference last week that there would be a lot of background

briefings "by interested people or interested agencies. . . I think you will be informed."

There has been a rash of background briefings, but sorting out the information is something else again. The dispute boils down to whether the invasion was a fiasco because of intelligence or military failures.

Up To President

The answer probably won't be known until Kennedy himself announces it, possibly from the study of intelligence methods he has ordered Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor to make. All the officials taking part in the briefings have remained anonymous. This is because they refuse to deal with such subjects as Cuba, France and Laos without some sort of escape hatch in case their information boomerangs.

The background briefing, which has been a popular pastime in the capital for some time, provides the public with inside information and interpretation. It is not without hazards, however.

One official undertook last week to advise reporters that Kennedy and Secretary of State Dean Rusk were at odds over the attempt to topple Castro.

This was reported to have displeased the President. The White House view was that although Rusk may not have liked the plan, he was not at odds with the President over the basic policy decision.



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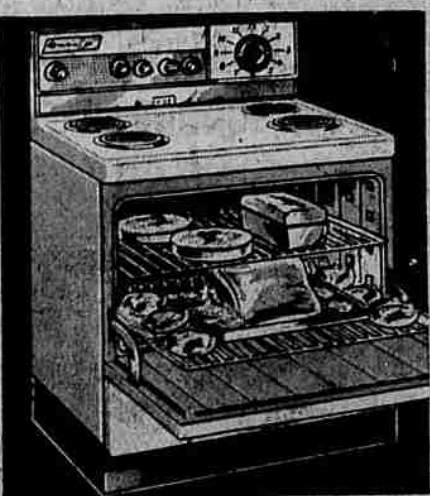
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UPI Writer Tells Of Experiences as Prisoner in Cuba

By KERRY RAYMONT
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New York—UPI—I have just returned from Cuba where I was a prisoner of war for six days on charges of being a U.S. agent.

That was the way they gave me a last-minute opportunity of sharing the mental anxiety and physical discomfort of an estimated 20,000 Cubans rounded up in Havana alone on suspicion of helping the counter-revolutionary invasion.

Many have been released since Castro's proud victory announcement last Thursday.

But countless others, including numerous foreigners, continue to face the uncertain fate of the victims of Castro's stern, revolutionary justice.

Detentions Censored

Most foreign correspondents arrested during the invasion have also been freed and can file, although their dispatches are being censored. When I left Havana Tuesday afternoon Robert Berles of Associated Press was the only U.S. correspondent still believed to be under arrest.

Martin Houseman and Adolfo Martinez of United Press International, Harold Mills and George Kaufmann of AP, Richard Valeriani of NBC were living at foreign embassies.

News Was Cut Off

By jailing these correspondents, Castro cut off direct news from Havana of his swift victory over the invading forces from being made known to the world.

For six days I was locked up with 50 persons in a room 14-by 16 feet at military intelligence headquarters, the feared green stucco building

in suburban Mariapao. But we lived in relative luxury with the only bath and shower in the building.

With me were Cubans of all walks of life—the dean of engineering of Villanova University, a doctor, a 72-year-old farmer, three university students, a retired boxer, five high school teachers, four bus drivers, six sugar workers, several peasants and a rural barber who sure had his hands full.

Cubans Keep Humor

What undoubtedly kept us from becoming depressed and demoralized despite some pretty frightening ordeals was the inevitable Cuban humor that seems to proliferate in the face of adversity.

"Welcome to the national tourist center," was the greeting I got from a sugar mill operator when I entered the cell the afternoon of April 17. "Here we are all millionaires and Martians."

"Why Martians?" I asked. "Because Fidel says there are no workers or peasants jailed only landowners, so we must come from Mars."

Armed Police Arrived

I was arrested at 1 a.m. Monday, April 17, minutes after phoning to UPI New York that reports of an invasion were circulating in Havana. A patrol of 10 militiamen armed with automatic rifles and Czech machine guns surrounded the flat which belonged to Adolfo Merino, also of UPI.

The commanding officer asked to search the flat for a "clandestine transmitter," claiming there had been a complaint that I had been "broadcasting counter-revolutionary messages" to the United States.

A superficial search of the apartment produced a typewritten paper citing unconfirmed reports of two landings by "substantial" counter-revolutionary forces. That was enough. Half an hour later Merino and I were taken to military intelligence headquarters.

Result of Pressures

When I was suddenly released Saturday night together with Houseman and Merino I was advised that the action came as a result of strong pressures from Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello and from at least eight other governments.

Leaving my fellow inmates Saturday was difficult. There is always a feeling of guilt in departing from a group of men who had never met before but who welcomed you as one of their own in difficult times.

It was now clear that I was going to be all right. I still don't know about them.

WHEAT USE

Minneapolis — About 46 per cent of the total U.S. wheat crop is milled into flour. Some is lost in milling, some is exported, and some used as feed.

Parents Reminded Of SOC Program

Ashtland — Response to the preschool and school children Southern Oregon college summer school program offering announced last week has drawn numerous inquiries. Dr. William T. Ward, director of laboratory experiences, has announced.

Dr. Ward said pre-school children would be those entering school for the first time in the fall, and that children through the eighth grade could be enrolled for the session.

He stressed that the offerings were not confined exclusively to slow learners, but were designed to present a broad background of enriched study and skill-accomplishments.

Parents are asked to call MURdock 5-8771 as soon as possible. Dr. Ward said, as the enrollment is limited and based wholly upon the order of registration.

Daily sessions for the school which will run from June 26 through Aug. 4, will be conducted from 9 a.m. until noon week days. There are no regular fees charged, although parents are required to furnish transportation.

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