

Exiles Plan Protest Of Detention

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Followers of Felipe Rivero, a jailed anti-Castro firebrand, predicted Monday that many of the 35,000 Cuban exiles working in Miami would walk off their jobs at midnight to protest Rivero's detention.

"The strike is definite for tomorrow (Tuesday) if Rivero is not released," said Alfredo Gonzalez Duran, president of a Bay of Pigs veterans group.

A spokesman for the Insurreccional Movement of Revolutionary Recovery—MIRR—added that some exiles began striking Monday afternoon. He predicted overwhelming support from the exile colony.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration Service, which is seeking to deport Rivero, said the handsome revolutionary's immediate release was most unlikely.

"I've received no orders to release Rivero," said Robert L. Woytych, district director at Miami.

Governmental agencies refused to speculate on effects of a strike among the exiles.

"This is a free country and people have the right to strike if they feel it is a justified cause," one State Department official said.

Rivero, 43, has been on a hunger strike since his arrest May 12 at his home. Friends said he was transferred from the Immigration Service to the Dade County Jail Monday because of his weakened condition.

Rivero is a veteran of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion and one of the most militant leaders in the exile colony. He has claimed credit for several anti-Castro terrorist bombings and has threatened to bomb Canada's Expo 67.

At the time of his arrest "on the basis of certain information," Rivero was on probation with immigration authorities because of his harrassment activities.

Rivero supporters alleged the arrest stemmed from pressure by Canada.

The arrest appeared to crystallize resentment among the 100,000 exiles against what they call U.S. intervention in sporadic effects to harrass Castro's regime.

Rallying to Rivero's defense, exiles carried out continuous demonstrations for a week. Some 30 exiles went on a hunger strike. Hundreds marched. One group extinguished the John F. Kennedy Torch of Friendship, a monument in Bayfront Park on Biscayne Boulevard.

Rivero is awaiting a May 29 hearing on an order to deport him.

"Rivero is a fighter and they are tying his hands because he is trying to strike a blow for our freedom," said one exile. "It's not that I agree with him politically, but why should he be locked up or expelled while others go free? Besides, he's fighting communism and Castroism."