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24 February 1964

CASTRO OUTLINES FISHING FLEET PROBLEMS

Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 1445 GMT 21 February 1964--F

(Live interview with Fidel Castro while awaiting the arrival of the released fishermen)

(Text) Announcer: Here comes Maj. Fidel Castro, who is now coming and is receiving, as you can hear, a warm ovation (sparse applause heard). We have Maj. Fidel Castro here. Major, what do you think of the arrival of these Cubans?

Castro: Good.

Announcer: There was a large crowd here last night. They did not come today because they are working, but the avenue and dock are completely filled--(Castro interrupts)

Castro: I have been watching over television for some time this morning. I think you are doing a good job. A very interesting report. Of course, I have noted some shortcomings.

Announcer: What?

Castro: For example, you speak of this incident and no one has spoken of the prospects for the development of the fishing fleet. (announcer tries to interrupt in self-defense--ed.) The origin of all this, and of the difficulties we must overcome, of the obstacles, the errors, and all that.

Announcer: I was even speaking with some boys there--

Castro: (few words indistinct) I can speak of this--(announcer interrupts)

Announcer: Of course, with pleasure--(Castro interrupts)

Castro: Topics of which I had a certain compulsion to speak. I wanted to speak of some things--first, the history of the development of this fishing fleet. In the first place, I could tell you that with the characteristic myopia of some officials of the revolution--in some cases it is a matter of people with very good intentions but who are very narrow-minded--well, the development of the fishing fleet was very slow. A few small ships were being built without utilizing all the real possibilities we had until at a given moment the necessity of giving it serious impetus was considered, using the labor force existing to build ships here, to buy ships abroad. At the beginning of last year and the end of the previous year, a reorganization of the fishing organizations was undertaken. Instead of the 10 ships that were being built, it was planned to build 50 and the efforts required for the construction of those 50 ships, which began to be completed at the end of last year and the beginning of this, began to be made. The first ships have already begun to be completed.

But we found that with the ships approaching completion, there were two problems: first, the organ in charge of fishing had made absolutely no efforts for the formation of cadres or the training of crewmen, fishermen, machinists, or navigators. Then, a school we had organized in Giron was found by us to be completely abandoned. We had tried to give impetus to two schools, one in Varadero--a sea school--and another in Giron. They are now concentrated (presumably means merged--ed.). We had a boy there as director of the school who was a real fraud. But he is not solely responsible. The Fishing Institute and the comrades at the head of the Fishing Institute were also quite responsible. In the middle of this year (as heard), for example, we found that all the boys were on vacation.

Announcer: All the boys on vacation?

Castro: Yes. The ships were being completed and the boys were on vacation. The director of the school had to be changed, a complete reorganization had to be carried out, and we had to find an efficient director and issue a new call for personnel. One of the difficult things was to get personnel for work at sea. Then we found that the ships were being completed and they had not concerned themselves about the auxiliary ships for the fishing--I am quite well informed on all this because I have participated from almost the first day in the dramatic events of the organization of a fishing fleet, because I have always believed that the question of the sea is one of the things in which we have more possibilities.

Announcer: Well, this aggression, I think, has justified--

Castro: Hold on, hold on, (laughter) we are going to speak of other things that are as bad as the aggressions. Fishing does more harm than the aggressions.

Announcer: Yes, but there has been an intensification in the construction of ships.

Castro: We can speak of that later. That, too, is not true.

Announcer: That too?

Castro: Yes, there are many untruths here. I want to speak of those constructions of ships. So then, those comrades who were in charge of fishing had not concerned themselves about crewmen or auxiliary ships. The ships were being completed and we were not going to have crewmen or auxiliary fishing vessels.

Of course, there was nothing from the naval enterprise either. I will have to speak of the naval enterprise also and not, as a matter of fact, in very complimentary terms. It was necessary in the middle of last year to make a great effort to organize this fleet, which, I want you to know, that--(interrupts self)

Do you know what was on this dock? A bus terminal. That was another of the biggest idiocies that could be committed, we found a bus terminal in this dock. It was hard to get that bus terminal out of here, at the sea. And then the fleet was installed here at this dock, some comrades were found, fishermen were recruited, and the fleet was converted in fact into a school simultaneously. But there were neither crewmen nor auxiliary ships.

What is one of the problems we still have? A series of ships were being completed and they did not have the small auxiliary launches for fishing. In this regard, I want to tell you something. Instructions were sent to the Naval Construction Enterprise, to Juceplan, to begin construction immediately of 300 auxiliary launches, because these auxiliary launches are the arms of the ships for fishing. Instructions were sent to the Naval Construction Enterprise of Juceplan to build 300 auxiliary launches this year for the 50 Lambdas that had to be completed under the 1963 plan and the 50 of the 1964 plan.

I took the trouble of going to find out what type of motor was good for those launches. Where did I go? To the Bella Havana cooperative and spoke to the fishermen. They explained to me the type of auxiliary launch, the type of motor--it was a Czechoslovak five-horsepower motor. I went to the Juceplan and I gave them all the specifications. I proposed that they buy that type of motor and that those launches be built. They drafted the plan and began to make (as heard) the motors and even the first launch.

Suddenly that launch began to give difficulties. What had they done? It turns out that the Hydraulics Institute--I do not know what organ--had bought 300 motors which were German 1 500 horsepower motors--(corrects self) no, of about six-plus horsepower, 1,800 revolutions, but which were not the appropriate motors. They began to install those type of motors. When I asked the other day, I was informed that some reducing gears must now be purchased.

In short, these organs that are in charge of construction did not even take the trouble--the technicians, the pseudotechnicians, the low-caliber technicians of those organs--to come to where the information could be obtained to find out what the appropriate motor was. They began to install motors that had been acquired for something

else, motors of higher horsepower and revolutions, and now we must find reducing gears and I doubt they will resolve the problem even with them.

Another problem we have on the ships is that these ships are sometimes equipped with miscellaneous motors. Some have adapted German motors and other motors for electric current. Many times the ships are completed and additional equipment for soundings and navigation are missing. Why? Because of the lack of coordination in the enterprise, in the foreign trade organs. We also have in foreign trade the situation that sometimes they send the motors, the principal parts, but not the accessory parts.

Many times, a series of these ships, which could be in production, do not have accessories because some of the gentlemen of the Foreign Trade Ministry were running around all the countries of the world without going where they should be looking for things. They go there at the last minute or hold up the ships because those products are missing.

So mistakes are made here by the Foreign Trade Ministry, by the Juceplan, by the Naval Constructions Enterprise, because they are the type who do not shout out. It is an enterprise that has been quite poorly organized from the beginning, where a series of administrators have had to be changed because they have not been functioning in a correct manner.

So many times these ships are not properly completed, they are imperfectly finished. The ships are good. They have a good hull, good structure. They are safe. But then comes the propeller. Of what metal is it built? You may suddenly find that they probably did not build it properly. The other day a propeller was lost. Now we are investigating why. On another day the exhaust pipe of the motor was below the waterline. They commit that kind of mistake. They commit errors in details but that, of course, then stops production and we must constantly face problems with the fishing boats.

Now, as for incomplete finishing, when they are lacking something, they do not shout. They do not go where they must go to get it. All this, in an enterprise, in work like this, demonstrates the tremendous lack of coordination that we still have among our organs, the lack of appropriate methods for work, the lack of practical and intelligent work methods, the myopia of many individuals who call themselves revolutionary. They possibly do get very angry when some criticism is made of them, do you hear, as if one did not have the right to get angry when one sees deficiencies in things.

There ought to be better quality and it should be required in that enterprise, as well as better coordination between the planning and importing organs, better methods for resolving problems, more direct contacts, and a little more concern with everything. We, in the task of organizing this fleet, which we are organizing and for which we are recruiting personnel, have encountered all the shortcomings, the lack of foresight. And it has been a lot of work to organize this fleet because of all those inconveniences.

There is another characteristic: the Fishing Institute has 500 bureaucrats. I want you to know that there are only four administrative employees in this fleet. Many people here have a bureaucratic concept of production. Many people believe that the problems of production are resolved administratively by a series of ink blotters writing little numbers, statistics, and things that have no real contact with production. That is why many things happened to us without (anyone--ed.) going to obtain information or discuss appropriate measures to resolve problems. That is why we have all these difficulties.

You were speaking of the Naval Constructions Enterprise. The Naval Constructions Enterprise, after the capture of the fishermen, held a series of assemblies. It came out in the front pages of the newspapers. Everywhere it was said that production was being redoubled. Lies, lies! (announcer tries to interrupt--ed.) Accomplices to those lies are incompetent and completely ignorant newsmen who go out to seek news and publish it on the front pages of the newspapers, deceiving the people. We must use those words. (announcer again tries to interrupt--ed.)

I will not say that it was done on purpose to deceive them, but rather with great ignorance of the matters they are dealing with. What they should have proposed--what they should have proposed was not a matter of quantity but of quality. Because they often speak of completing the outfitting of a ship and they bring the ship and it must spend another month completing a series of details. What they should do is to make a little bit less propaganda, a little bit less publicity, and work with a little more efficiency and quality and keep those details more in mind.

Those are some of the problems. Perhaps we will now have to be looking for auxiliary motors for the plants of these ships. So that we will not have the problem of the constant stoppage of production because of propellers, auxiliary plants. Moreover, we will have to study how to make sure that they will have various pieces of equipment; equipment the quality and efficiency of which is known beforehand.

Right now we have this problem of which I was telling you, of the auxiliary ships, and we must now see how we can resolve these problems because these ships without auxiliary launches are not appropriate, their productivity is very low because they cannot be fishing. They need several boats with small motors for fishing. Of course, these are not the only ships we will have. We are developing this type of vessel, which is the smallest. We are also building 122-foot boats at the Cardenas shipyards. They are going to be very good vessels. We are also preparing conditions to build metal boats and, additionally, to purchase an entire fleet in various countries. But I can give you advance notice that we are going to have 300 tuna ships by 1970.

Announcer: Three hundred tuna ships?

Castro: We expect to be catching no less than 500 million pounds by 1970, and these boys, who are of a new, magnificent, and great quality generation of fishermen, are precisely the ones who will make possible the development of that plan. These are boys who are in school, who start in school, continue learning their trade here on the ships for one year. They begin on these ships, the Lambda ships. Then they go to the 122-foot ships, which I think will be called Victoria ships, and then they will go on to the bigger ships, the vessels that fish with trot lines (palagreros) and that have more than 100 tons capacity. They will also fish on trawlers. They enter on a type of scale. They begin on the Lambdas and go on up through the larger ships.

Announcer: The Cardenas shipyard was working quite well--(Castro interrupts)

Castro: I am of the opinion that the Cardenas shipyard has worked quite well and without much publicity, above all. The prospects for fishing, according to all reports and investigations, are very good, extraordinary. We are going to take full advantage, but without this, without creating a generation of fishermen--not canoe fishermen, rowboat fishermen, platform fishermen--without creating a generation of fishermen it was not even possible to dream of a great fishing fleet. I, really, am quite satisfied with the conduct of these boys. These boys were undoubtedly the victims of an arbitrary and illegal act because there was never the intention of creating any problem nor was creating any problem desired. What was wanted was precisely to fish in the seas where we have a right to fish, and to avoid incidents.

But the boys have conducted themselves formidably. There were possibly two fishermen who were not among the boys; two old fishermen who possibly were people of little spirit who cowered before threats that they were going to be put in jail. They possibly found a hostile atmosphere there. But the rest of the fishermen, 36 fishermen, have conducted themselves in a formidable and worthy manner. It can be said that they have been there in jail, in the guts of the imperialist monster, harassed, offended, insulted, mistreated, threatened, offered bribes, and vexed in all possible ways. And they, there alone, resisted the pressures. They conducted themselves in a worthy manner in the jails. The dispatches themselves have noted the dignity in which they behaved. They sang revolutionary songs, they resisted firmly.

I believe that they feel great satisfaction, great pride. I think that all the people are awaiting them with pride also over the way they conducted themselves. And I also hope that our enemies have had the opportunity to see what kind of new generation is

being trained here, what kind of unbribable, unfrightened, and invincible men are being created here. Many of them must be surprised, over there, over how these humble fishermen have not wanted to reside, live in the paradise of which they were told. They have not wanted to accept the bribery in dollars, the sinecures offered them in the United States, and they returned to their country with so much pride, with their heads held high.

You were saying that this might contribute to informing the people better and to arousing enthusiasm on behalf of the sea. That is right, but above all it would be good for information to be available so that the people could see that there are magnificent prospects. Of course, this is hard work, but it is nice work, well-paid work, a job that is well attended to. We take special pains to see that these comrades are well fed on the ships. Nothing is spared. These comrades get wine and food. They get a salary, but they also get additional amounts in accordance with the amount of fish they catch. They get magnificent food. For example, each ship gets 60 or 70 liters of good wine, which is given them because they must be fishing in the early morning hours in cold places during the winter. All those things help them: good food, good attention.

Several buildings in Havana del Este have been set aside for housing the workers of the fleet, this fleet and the trotline fishing fleet. According to the projected plan for the fleet we will have by 1970, we must build various fishing ports in addition to the one now in existence because this one is principally for the Soviet fleet. We built it in coordination with them and they have provided the equipment and the credits. We are going to give service to our ships and to the Soviet ships.

But we must also build three ports (few words indistinct), another possibly, in the Santiago, Cuba, area, and another (few words indistinct). We must have the housing for the fishermen and their families. Right now, we have converted a building into a hotel in Havana del Este. We are converting another building for single boys. We have 400 apartments available for couples. Thus we are progressing, resolving all the problems, the problems of the industrial installations, the problems of housing for the fishermen, the problems related to the repair of ships. In short, a complete plan will be drafted for the development of fishing activities. This will enable our country to be one of the highest fish-consuming nations, a diet that is recommended by the FAO as necessary for ideal nutrition. Fish is very high in proteins and minerals, and it is very important in human diets.

We aspire to the development of the production of all these indispensable food products: milk, meat, fish, eggs. That is why we are giving great encouragement to all that. It is easy in some fields and less easy in others. This is not an easy task. It requires years, investment, the training of many people.

Announcer: But one can already note a great difference between the fish that was eaten and is now being eaten in Cuba.

Castro: We are already eating much better fish and it is now on the rise. By the middle of the year we will have 60 of this type of fishing vessel in production. One thing I want to tell you: the organization of this enterprise was conceived, costs were studied, and it was established that a catch of 16,000 pounds pays for each trip. I want to know that the ships that are fishing--despite the difficulties, despite the frequent inconveniences and need for repairs, despite the inefficiency of the equipment

and even the fishing arts, which did not exist here and which had to be acquired by much work--the ships have been catching an average of 25,000 pounds of fish each trip. That is to say, they average 9,000 pounds over the amounts necessary to make the trip pay for itself.

So the fleet pays for itself and it is profitable. It has a minimum of bureaucracy. In a certain sense we are organizing it to emulate with the other fleet, the tuna fleet, because we want that fleet, too, to have a minimum of bureaucracy and a maximum of efficiency. Of course, everything is integrated in a single organization, the Fishing Institute, which by a recent law issued by the Council of Ministers has been assigned to the premier. That means that we have something to say about the development of this fleet.

But we must struggle with prejudices, inconveniences, narrow-mindedness, and even, often, jealousy, rivalries. I want you to know that sometimes the other fleet has fishhooks and lines and this one has neither. No, there is no real coordination, no real cooperation. And that is why the future of fishing in Cuba is in the development of this type of enterprise, of ships of great fishing capacity. So we, by 1970, with some 9,000 men, will be catching five or six times more fish than with the 10,000 fishermen now in the cooperatives because the fishing arts are outdated and the ships are small. Of course, the fishing cooperatives play and will continue to play a certain role in production, but the major part of production will progressively depend on this type of enterprise.

Announcer: Do you remember the number of (scholarship students?) in the Giron school?

Castro: Well, there were some 1,500 at the Giron school and some 6,000 presented themselves at the late call. But of course not all of them are there now because we are completing certain installations at the Victoria de Giron school in order to be able to handle all the children. We are interested in having the largest number possible. This will be a profession for youths with an interesting future and they will have the opportunity to learn everything. We have schools for crewmen, radio technicians, and machinists, because all these ships, particularly the modern ships, need more technical and trained personnel.

In the school we choose the best for pilots, mechanics, and other jobs. Then those who entered the school as crewmen and fishermen can later learn a trade. They can go from one fleet to another. We will have the Gulf fleet, which is this one; the trot-line fleet, which is of the Japanese type; and the trawler fleet. In the future we will have at least three fishing fleets. A Gulf and a tuna fleet, and another will be the trawler fleet, which will have large ships which will fish for herring, cod, and those species, which--(announcer interrupts)

Announcer: That is a fish that was not eaten in Cuba, the tuna, but it is magnificent and it is eaten today.

Castro: Yes. This year we will have, by the end of the year, at least 12 ships fishing--(changes thought) I think the comrades are coming in already. They are coming. This year we will have at least 12 tuna ships working. Let me tell you, by the end of 1965 we will have 70 tuna ships.

Announcer: Seventy!

Castro: Yes, 70 within, I would say, 20 months. We will have 70 tuna ships. Today we have five. Within 20 months we will have 70. We will have 300 tuna ships by 1970 and some 400 Lambdas, unless we make modifications from one type to another.

Announcer: Yes, the Lambdas are the smaller.

Castro: So we will have, I would say, some 350 large ships and some 600 ships of the Lambda type and slightly smaller than the Lambdas. Our fleet will have some 900 ships for 1970. You will realize that we will have a large supply of fish. Parallel to this, production of meat, milk, and eggs is being developed. Let me tell you that by January of next year we will have a production of 60 million eggs monthly and we are working intensely to put eggs on the free market in January of next year. Every measure, everything is being done to this end along with the development of the production of milk and meat.

This will provide us with a balanced diet. It will also provide us with the ability to export meat. If we depended only on supplying ourselves with meat, we would not have an available surplus. We must not depend on only one product for export--sugar or tobacco. No, we must seek other lines of production. We are already preparing for production of 5,000 (few words indistinct) for export this year. In a special plan we are fattening 30,000 head of beef to begin to open a market for meat exports. Let me tell you that by the end of the year we hope to have 250,000 bulls (presumably steers--ed.) in process of fattening for internal consumption and 30,000 for export. We are thinking about it and we are working on it. (sentence indistinct)

Fishing will make it possible for us to have a product that is a source of protein. We will have several sources of protein: meat, eggs, milk, fish, fowl. Now we are going to develop, in addition to the production of chicks--which will be 3 million monthly this year in the state sector and 3.5 million next year--the production of eggs, because the production of eggs, in relation to the nourishment of children, does more and can be distributed more evenly. So now we are going to stress the production of eggs next year and then the production of chicks.

But, look, fishing helps us because the waste obtained from fishing can be used as fish flour, which is a source for the production of feed to produce eggs and poultry and other types of food. We are going to develop the production of fish, which does not need feed, and develop the cattle industry, milk and meat, on the basis of pasture, which is the cheapest source of protein for us on the basis of our climate. Of course the development of poultry and pigs does require feed, but, of course, waste products from the slaughterhouses can be used for poultry feed. Fish wastes can be used for poultry feed. So the development of these branches of production makes possible the development of other sources of proteins, such as eggs and poultry.

Announcer: But that is a household problem. The housewife who does not have fish has--(Castro interrupts)

Castro: I can tell you that there will be an extraordinary increase next year in fishing and egg production.

Announcer: Eggs.

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Castro: And milk. Of course, on a smaller scale (few words indistinct), internal consumption production and production for export in order to have an additional export line. Because you must understand that much of this electronic equipment--machines, factories--must be bought with foreign exchange.

Announcer: Certainly.

Castro: This is why we must have the largest source, the greatest diversity possible in every product. This is something I wanted to talk about. I heard you talking only about what is temporary, and of course it is necessary for the people to have an overall picture and also express these complaints before public opinion because I think it is a necessity to place those responsible for errors before public opinion (Castro has been speaking heatedly--ed.).

Announcer: Surely.

Castro: Very important.

Announcer: Of course--(Castro interrupts)

Castro: Thank you very much (spoken coldly. Several words indistinct as Castro moves away--ed.).

Announcer: But this is something you can do since you have firsthand information.

Castro: And the least thing you (plural you--ed.) can also do is not to tell lies.

Announcer: (Chuckles halfheartedly--ed.) And not (rubbish?).

Castro: (Few words indistinct) are deceived and they serve as tools for the (word indistinct).

Announcer: Fine.

Voices: Easy, easy gentlemen. Easy. Are they there yet? I am going. Let us see now. (words indistinct) Easy, easy, easy. (babble of voices, confusion--ed.)

Announcer: Well, the Lambdas are now arriving with the 29 fishermen who were held in the United States. A moment ago you heard clarifying remarks on many fishing problems in Cuba by Maj. Fidel Castro. Also about the problems being resolved and the plans to increase production of eggs, chicken, and meat.

#### Arrival of Fishermen

Havana Domestic Radio and Television Service in Spanish 1025 GMT 21 February 1964--F

(Live coverage)

(Editorial Report) As the fishermen arrive in Havana from Key West they are greeted by Premier Fidel Castro and a crowd of relatives, friends, and public. Television cameras and radio commentators are much in evidence. A television commentator immediately begins to interview one of the boat captains, Jose Manuel Ventura of



the Cardenas 14, who says that everything was stolen from them including food and clothing. He adds that the boats were delivered to them in such poor shape that it was only their desire to get back to Cuba that got them across the straits. He claims his boat was completely disabled. The scene at the docks is very confused, with much milling around and people shouting.

Castro orders the press and the fishermen into a nearby dining hall for an interview. Before the interview, he says: "Well, comrades, are all the captains here? They are? Good. You have just returned and we have wanted to hold a press interview so that you can answer spontaneously, can relate your experiences and answer the questions asked omitting absolutely nothing, and also in what state the boats arrived there and what state they returned and what difficulties there were. We want to know all those things."

The first question is asked by what appears to be a Soviet correspondent speaking Spanish. He asks what shape the boats were in when the fishermen returned from jail. The answer is that the boats "were completely destroyed"; fishing gear, watches, food, wrenches, knives, and even the flags were stolen; and the ships were battered. On the return trip, three of the ships had engine trouble caused by Key West personnel. The fishermen claim that the Coastguard took pictures of everything and wanted the manuals for the German engines, but that they burned the manuals so they would not fall into the hands of the Coastguard. The men claim that even their cigarettes and cigars were stolen.

Jose Garcia Rodriguez, captain of Lambda 33, does most of the talking. He says his captain's certificate and other items were taken. He says that he was offered some provisions for the trip back to Havana but said they did not need them. He says they told him at Key West that when he got outside the three-mile limit he could dump it if he did not want it. He repeats accusations of theft of other items, including some money.

About the time spent in jail, he says that they had to sleep on the floor on newspapers until they protested and had their Cuban quilts brought to them.

Garcia Rodriguez says that they received one sandwich in the morning and one at night, with sweet potatoes. He adds that the jailers treated them well. He said that if the United States is the country of plenty, he did not see it.

The interview is carried on amidst shouting and laughter. Many statements are unintelligible because several men speak at once. Garcia Rodriguez, who keeps the microphone throughout the interview, explains that he was made offers of money and automobiles to stay in the United States and that he was told that the two who asked for asylum pointed him out as a counterrevolutionary. He says the Key West authorities advised him to remain in the United States therefore, because he would be executed when he returned to Cuba. In spite of this he refused and told them he wanted to return to Cuba.

He says he was questioned by about five men in a cell by himself with all types of apparatus around. There was one man questioning them who appeared to be a CIA agent. He said the man was a Mexican and that he had said that he lived very well in the United States, that he had his own automobile. He said the man pulled out some money, but they refused it.

Another man interjects that all the fish they had caught was been seized and that they were fed some of it while in jail. When questioned, the jailer refused to tell them if it was their own fish.

While in jail they wrote a song, which they sang to the press and Fidel Castro.

Garcia Rodriguez tells of the heckling they received at the Key West dock by a group of Cubans. He says that the Cubans at the dock expressed glee at the destruction by Hurricane Flora. He thought this was in extremely bad taste.

He speaks at some length of attempts made on himself and others to try to make them stay in the United States and of all the clever answers he gave them.

He tells the amazement of the North Americans at the quality of their boats and equipment.

He and his comrades conclude their statements saying that they wished to return the food given them at Key West for their return trip to Cuba.

Premier Fidel Castro concludes the interview with a short statement.

#### Castro Concluding Statement

Havana Domestic Radio and Television Service in Spanish 1625 GMT 21 February 1964--F

(Text) Castro: And the flags of the ships, where are they? (A confused babble of voices with one voice saying: "They took the flags, they even took the Mexican flag."--ed.)

Castro: Mexico had nothing to do with this. Where is Pardo? I want an immediate list of everything that is missing. (Sentence indistinct). We have the shrimp boat and we will not return the shrimper until they return the flags (interrupted by shouting--ed.). I want to take this opportunity so that you can see how differently we behave. When a shrimp boat comes here we are prepared to return it. An airplane arrived here that had been taken by force, and yesterday it left here for the United States with the pilot and everything complete. Three days ago also, another American, a flyer, had an accident south of Cuba in one of the keys and we saved his life. (Sentence indistinct).

I even gave orders that not even a spoon should be missing from this boat, this boat which came and we are prepared to return it. But this thing shows the senselessness of the things they do. In less than a week, a boat came, an airplane came, an accident took place and an American crashed and needed the assistance of Cuba to save his life. That demonstrates the stupidity of their policy of seizing our boats in international waters, submitting their crews to humiliations, blackmail, threats, attempts at subordination, interrogations on things that had nothing to do with national (word indistinct), and demonstrates how many errors they commit and is one of the things I want to emphasize here. (Several words indistinct) boats and airplanes come here. We return them in spite of the fact that they have a dozen boats which the counterrevolutionaries have stolen here. They belong to Cuba and they are there. (Interrupted by unintelligible babble--ed.) They have stolen airplanes from here which

counterrevolutionary deserters have stolen and have not returned them. They have not returned them, and we returned everything. Why? Because of courtesy, decency; because we want to live in a civilized manner.

But living in a civilized manner is one thing and to put up with indecencies is another. We want to live in a civilized manner but we will not return the boat if they do not indemnify us for the harm done. (Interrupted by shouting but he continues.) We want to live in a civilized manner, but it is difficult to live decently with such indecent people (trails off into a mumble, several words indistinct--ed.). I think that the thing that causes the most indignation--one can be an enemy, one can be anything they can be, but I think that any enemy is degraded when he steals spoons, when he steals food, when he burns up engines, when he steals pots, plates, cigarettes, cigars, food, and all that (someone in background tries to tell him what was stolen, but he ignores him and keeps on--ed.).

Any enemy that does that is degraded, and that demonstrates how little those North American officials think of honor, how little they think of their own prestige. I think that nothing degrades and discredits anybody more than when they do these things (word indistinct) indecency in small amounts. They do the same things as with the base. In the base, as everybody knows, we have films showing how the Yankee soldiers are throwing rocks and offering provocations but our disciplined troops do not answer the provocations. However, the other day we saw an international dispatch, a report by a newsman on the base which said: "The Cubans are not throwing rocks at the base these days. They have stopped throwing rocks." (several sentences indistinct)

The things that happen there are all based on indecency, provocations, lies, and they think that (stammers and repeats--ed.) they can intimidate and bind people to their will. They are such bad politicians and their thinking is on a level with Machiavelli (several words indistinct) who said: "When you do someone some harm do it in such a manner they cannot get even, or do not do it." They are such cretins that they do not understand that those things they do awake patriotism, create more consciousness, (several words indistinct).

They must be seeing that this is a new generation of people and they had to be impressed. (Unintelligible reference to ancient Rome and the bravery of one of its citizens--ed.). In the same manner you must have made a deep impression on them with your determination, your morale. They have to see, self-deluded as they are in part (rest of thought indistinct--ed.). Nobody is easier to delude than he who wishes to deceive himself, but things are very different from what they imagine.

The majority of the worms have fundamentally already left the country and the people who remain here, the people left here, are the people with a different spirit, a very different set of ethics, with a formidable character. But above all, when we see the looting they have done of the boats, how they have taken everything--but this is very good, so that we can learn here the degree of betrayal, the lack of patriotism of those people, the mercenaries who are there asking that the army invade our country.

This gives an idea of what this country would be if a Yankee invading army took this land, what they would do with the houses, the farms, with the people, what destruction there would be. And this tells us how we would have to defend the land from a Yankee

imperialist invasion, how we here would have to defend each house, man, woman, child, everything would have to be defended here, because this gives us an idea of what those people are like, the mentality they have, the hate they feel, the hate they feel for our people.

Why? Because they have been powerless against the determination of our people. Because they have been powerless against the determination and the strength of the revolution, and as the revolution is stronger every day, I would say that these are not even the acts of a pirate, they are the acts of a sneak-thief. They are not the actions of a respectable enemy. They are acts of people who are truly hysterical. That is all I have to say (applause).

#### FISHERMEN'S CASE UNMASKS IMPERIALISM

Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 February 1964--F

(Jose Maria Gonzalez Jerez commentary)

(Excerpts) With the arrival of the four Cuban fishing boats and their crew members, the case is closed on part of the grave incident provoked by North American imperialism.

The balance sheet cannot have turned out more unfavorably for the United States and more favorably for Cuba. The North American statesmen once more have gotten themselves into a difficult blind alley. First they seized the boats in international waters, then they jailed the crew members, subjecting them for 18 days to duress, humiliation, and blackmail. In view of the vigorous and worthy reaction by Cuba and world repudiation, imperialism needed a relatively graceful out. The case was turned over illegally to the jurisdiction of the Florida courts--an unusual move that elicited protests by several North American newspapers.

The exoneration from guilt of the fishermen has been a full admission of an international crime perpetrated with premeditation by North American authorities in violation of their own laws and international laws. For appearance's sake, it became necessary for a Florida judge to convict the four boat captains. Translated into figures--something the Yankee imperialists like so much--the dignity of imperialism was appraised at 2,000 dollars. This sentence has been appealed to the Miami Court of Appeals.

In a fit of impotence and rage, the imperialists vented their wrath on the Cuban boats, stealing the personal effects of the crew members, the foodstuffs, fishing gear, and flags, and damaging the engines and communications equipment. They were unable to make the Cuban fishermen get on their knees. As Fidel said, "Imperialism has had the opportunity of ascertaining the human, patriotic, and revolutionary quality of this new generation of fishermen--firmest prop for the development of our fishing fleet."

Cuba does everything possible to avoid incidents. Its attitude conforms to international laws. Meanwhile, the United States, in an impotent and stupid move provokes incidents and commits miserable acts which contribute to its disrepute in the world.