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## CUBAN DENIES PLANE PLEDGE

Says U.S. Did Not Promise  
Invasion Air Support

100 U.S. citizens due to leave  
Cuba tomorrow.....Page 2

Washington, Jan. 11 (AP)—A Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion leader said today it is not true that the venture collapsed because the United States failed to provide promised air support.

Jose A. Perez San Roman said he had received no indication or promise that such support would be forthcoming.

"We had our own planes, but they were knocked out," said Perez San Roman, commander of the 2506th Brigade of the Cuban liberation armed forces.

### A Controversial Point

The question of support by United States forces has been one of the most controversial points in public discussions of the ill-fated 1961 attempt by Cuban rebels to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro.

The Kennedy Administration has maintained official silence on the point.

Editor's note—Tonight the White House declined to comment on Perez San Roman's statement but agreed, when questioned on the point, that the Kennedy Administration at no time promised air cover to the Cuban rebels. "No," he repeated. "We had our own."

One veteran of the invasion, Manuel Penabaz, wrote in a news magazine article that Perez San Roman had called unsuccessfully during the invasion for cover by jet airplanes. He said the request was made in a communication with an American ship, but the rebels "looked in vain for the support that could have knocked Castro's planes from the sky."

Still appearing thin and tired, he begged off from further discussion of the invasion.

The brigade commander presented a medal as a memento from the brigade to the Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy, who called him "Pepe" and said: "I appreciate this."

Asked about it today, Perez San Roman shook his head. Asked whether he had ever received any indication that air cover for the invasion would be