HAVANA SWEEPED BY GUN FIRE; STATE OF SIEGE PROCLAIMED, WITH GENERAL CALL TO ARMS

By J. D. PHILLIPS.

HAVANA, Sunday, March 10.—Heavy firing by troops and police, in response to attacks by rebel elements, brought terror to Havana during last night.

With forty blocks of the downtown section in utter darkness, after a day in which an unending succession of bomb explosions had echoed in scattered parts of the city, federal and local forces were degaging snipers and outlaws who fought what appeared to be a battle from the rooftops.

The atmosphere of terror was heightened by the advent of a curfew which made it illegal that they were "hostile elements," firing that began in the early evening grew in volume until it was obvious that the city faced a major disturbance.

Shortly after 11 P. M. the Mendieta Government, which had declared a dictatorship early yesterday morning, took official cognizance of the serious turn taken in its fight for existence against the strikers who are seeking to make a general walkout the prelude to a revolution.

A state of siege was declared in Havana Province. A general call to arms had also been issued.

Searchlights Seek Snipers.

The cracking of rifles and the occasional rattle of machine-gun fire continued to increase. With the arrival of midnight searchlights from Las Cabanas Fortress, after having been illumined more than two hours earlier, were sweeping the tall buildings of the downtown section. Observers, following the white beams, could see what appeared to be guards or snipers on rooftops and parapets.

Meanwhile, to the accompaniment of a steady shrieking of the sirens of police ears in the streets, it was reported that a round-up of the anti-government leaders was in progress. These included Salvador Massip, former Ambassador to Mexico under former President Ramon Grau San Martin. The Grau faction is blamed by the government for a large part of its troubles. Another follower of former President Grau known to be in police hands was Dr. Herminia Portel Vila, Cuban delegate to the last Pan-American Conference.

In addition, the police were continuing their round-up of strikers and their leaders in an effort to break the plan for a general tie-up of commerce and transportation.

The strikes have set in motion for the strikes of their leaders, began days ago. The government in its turn adopted strict repressive measures, suspending the Constitution early yesterday except as it applied to treaty and foreign obligations. Lieut. Col. Jose Pedraza was named military governor of Havana Province.

Many Bombs Explode.

During Saturday, up to midnight, at least thirteen bombs had exploded in the city. In one explosion the doorway of the Radio Press office, located in the downtown area, was damaged when a bomb was hurled from a speeding automobile. Gustavo Lora, a messenger, was injured. In another explosion a youth was gravely injured when a bomb exploded in his hands while he was riding in an automobile, according to the police.

No accurate count of casualties was available. As far as was known, nine persons had been injured by bombs, and four persons wounded when an incendiar bomb was touched off in an omnibus.

Whether there had been many slain continued on page twenty-nine.
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Among the official forces and their attackers, the casualties were approximately determined. A count of the victims was handicapped by the fact that several hundred men, including private clinics had walked out at noon yesterday.

In Havana, theatre employees announced a strike for today, and by Monday morning.

They created by the revolutionary strike, an identified group of men, beginning about the same time the government. Could not be ascertained by the revolutionary strike, checking the revolutionary strike, deeded a fleet of omnibuses abandoned by striking employees for quarters. Military proclamations were posted throughout the province by the great number of political prisoners.

The leaders of the strike, how­ever, were able to maintain control over the situation said in part:

"A majority of the employes tele­phoned their respective departments indicating their desire to work before their inability to do so on account of lack of transportation annoyed the government have given effect. Monday.

The statement issued by the Sec­retary to the Presidency to the effect that the measures adopted early this morn­ing by the government have given will and continue to give excellent results as is evidenced by the turn of a larger number of employees today compared with yesterday, al­though because of the lack of newspa­pers and the late hour many were left in ignorance of events.

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The military broadcasting stations announced at noon that in support of the striking newspapers no further news items would be broadcast.

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