REVOLT IN HAVANA; 50 SLAIN

BATISTA FORCES CRUSH ATACK ON HIS PALACE

President Blames Assault on 'Pro-Reds'

BY JULES DUBOIS

HAVANA, Cuba, March 13

Gen. Fulgencio Batista remained the strong man of Cuba to night after loyal troops crushed an old attack against the presidential palace.

The death toll is reported to exceed at least 50. Thirty-four dead were officially reported in the morgue. The army said it would release its casualty figures tonight.

The number of wounded is unknown except that 12 were caught by bullets that peppered a bus which was forced to halt in front of the palace. They were taken to the hospital, several in critical condition.

Caught Off Guard

Batista confirmed that the attack penetrated the palace when they caught the guard in a fox hole.

He bitterly denounced his opponents and blamed "an assassination" for the attack. He charged they were financed by "miserable" people.

Reports from eyewitnesses indicate that the attackers massacred 40 officials stationed in nearby streets. One American, Peter E. Rounds of Clifton, N. J., was killed when he shot his head out of his hotel window.

Parties of Secretary

The attackers captured the well-guarded residence of ex-President Carlos Prío Socarras who was overthrown by Batista five years ago. Also participating were sympathizers of Fidel Castro, rebel leader who is holed up in Sierra Maestra in Oriente province.

Menscha Marx, one of Prío's trusted lieutenants, was killed inside the palace. Jose Antonio Echevarria, president of the student federation, was killed as he tried to flee to the sanctuary of the university after participating in a raid against a radio station.

Batista was holed up in his apartment on the top floor of the palace with two cabinet ministers. His wife was in the bedroom tending their young son, Fulgen­cio, who was ill. She is expecting another baby soon.

Radio censorship was imposed tonight. Only official bulletins issued by the army command may be broadcast.

TV Station Blacked Out

One TV station, Telemundo, was suspended from broadcasting news for 72 hours because it failed today's embargo. Station officials said they had no prior word that this was prohibited.

Cable repressive measures were taken by the police last night as Havana's streets became deserted. Cars were halted and suspects searched while wholesale arrests were made.

Several dead were reported by the police radio who has been "mowed" with exploded hand grenades.
When they reached the first floor, four ran westward and four others to the east where Batista's offices are. They knocked at some of the doors, threatening to force them open, then threw three hand grenades. One exploded.

Batista later went to his private office and directed the palace defense from there. "All I did was to use the telephone and give orders to my aides," Batista said, "altho my loaded .45 was very near my hand."

Tells of Tipoff
Batista said he had been informed earlier that an attack on the palace was planned and had instructed the guards and the army to avoid unnecessary bloodshed.

Batista wore a sports jacket. Asked why he did not wear the leather jacket he customarily wears on "revolutionary" occasions, he replied, "This time I was something softer."

Other sources said a guard at the south palace door. The president gave this version:

During the battle or fled. in which he promised the
president to the presidency in
the attack started. The reports were

about to intrude on the battle or fled. in which he promised the
president to the presidency in
the attack started. The reports were

Mexico where he conferred
with Castro and signed a pact
in which he promised the sup-
port of university students to a
plan by Castro to invade
Cuba and overthrow Batista.

Today's fighting resulted from
that pact.

The young men who took
part in the revolt are mostly
sons of families who resented
Batista's seizure of power in
1952 and who believe his elec-
tion to the presidency in 1954
was rigged. Many Cubans are
openly bitter about what they
call the president's military
dictatorship and they call his
army supporters corrupt.

I reached the no man's land and
around the palace as the fighting
began to subside.

Arms at University
Police occupied the Univer-
sity of Havana, which has been
closed for months, and report-
ed they had seized a large
quantity of arms and ammuni-
tion including grenades.

At dusk two tanks and an
infantry regiment were dis-
patched to the City of Mexico
hospital where survivors of the
attack on the palace were
reported to have been enthrone-
d for the university.

All airplane flights in and
from Havana were halted
shortly after the fighting
crashed. [Pan American air-
ways said in Miami it hoped
to resume flights within a
week normally makes 12 Havana
flights daily.]

The army also com-
manded all aviation gasoline in
ease it should be needed for
military air craft.

At 6 p.m., police clamped
a curfew on Havana and al-
lowed no one without a permit
on the streets.

The revolt did not come as
a surprise. The rebel element
supporting Castro had been
predicting it for a week.