

Eight Hurt; Americans Leaving Santiago—

Havana Bomb Blast Kills One

HAVANA, Cuba (UP)—A bomb exploded in a Woolworth store in the heart of Havana today, killing one person and injuring eight others. Some of the injured were reported in serious condition.

The rest of the city generally was quiet. There was no sign of a predicted general strike, since attempts to start a walkout apparently had failed.

In Santiago, a stronghold of rebel sympathizers, Americans who work there were sending

their wives and children to safer places. It was reported that mounting tension in the capital city of Oriente province might explode into large-scale violence at any time.

It was in Santiago that a demonstration against President Fulgencio Batista last Wednesday caused some friction in Cuban-American affairs.

The demonstration was staged during a visit to that city by U.S. Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith.

Santiago police acted forcefully to crush the opposition, and Smith criticized the police brutality.

Cuban critics promptly condemned Smith for his comments, but U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles gave the ambassador a vote of confidence in Washington today.

Dulles told his news conference that Smith's remarks may have been technically unwarranted. But Dulles said he felt the comments

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were a very human reaction, and he hoped the Cuban government would understand them in their proper frame of reference.

Ten of 15 wives of Americans employed at the Texas Company's 14 million dollar Santiago oil refinery have left for safe places in the past few days. Others are expected to leave soon.

Unconfirmed reports said the company is seeking airplane space to move all of its local American employes and their families to Havana until order can be restored in Santiago.

Police announced today they are holding two Floridians on suspicion of trying to join the rebels hiding out in the nearby Mistress Mountains.

Thomas M. Miller of Miami and Russell F. Master of Vero Beach were arrested Saturday night in the village of San Luis, near the rebel-held hills.

Police said both men were carrying guns and fatigue clothes like those worn by the rebels.

Although no formal charge has been filed, both men are being interrogated by police. The U. S. Consulate is keeping in close touch with the situation.

Meanwhile, opposition politicians rallied to the support of U. S. Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith, whose recall has been demanded by the government bloc in Congress because he criticized police precautions here.

Leaders of six opposition parties praised Smith for speaking out against the "excesses of force" prevailing in Santiago.

The anti-government "general strike" which has paralyzed normal activity here for five days continued unabated today, despite a Cuban Army offer to provide strikebreaking workers for firms that want to reopen.

An attempt to spread the strike to Havana appeared to have failed.

About half the staff of the Chase Manhattan Bank's Havana staff stayed away from work Yesterday, and the Cuban Continental Bank also was affected. Most other firms continued business as usual.

A spokesman for President Fulgencio Batista said business leaders have condemned the walkout as a "political strike" organized by "terrorists, Communists and hidden elements."

Batista himself, who spent the day yesterday at his military headquarters at Camp Columbia on the outskirts of Havana, could not be reached immediately for comment.

Opposition dynamiters blew up a gas meter in suburban Vedado at 5 p.m. yesterday, causing some damage but no reported casualties. No other anti-government violence was reported.