

# Trouble In Cuba

## Revolutionists Here Disunited By Feuds

(Last in a Series)

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There are enough Cuban revolutionaries in the Miami area to start a war among themselves, and from time to time it has looked as if that very thing might happen.

Take the forces of Fidel Castro, the man who gives Cuban President Fulgencio Batista fits by running a rebel stronghold in Cuba's mountains:

Castro's Miami supporters are split into two groups. One 26th of July organization is headed by Juan Cheda, of 3527 NW 2nd St. The other 26th of July group is run by J. W. Paula, a restaurant operator.

### Much Bickering

There has been much bickering between the two groups as to which really represents Castro, but the Cheda organization seems to have triumphed. Castro's sisters, Lida and Emma, tried to bring peace to the feuding factions, but ended up siding with Cheda's organization.

In addition, there is feuding between those backing Castro's revolutionary movement and Carlos Prio Socarras, former president of Cuba and the prime anti-Batista force until Castro launched his spectacular foray on Cuba last December.

Only last week when the Castro sisters staged a rally at the Flagler Theater in downtown Miami a Castro supporter got up on the stage and denounced all past regimes in Cuba—which naturally included that of Prio's.

When he started his tirade, the Prio supporters got up and walked out of the meeting.

### Leads Up Blind Alley

Two of those who walked out were Eva Gutierrez, whose husband was killed recently in Cuba, and Joachim Ferrer, who lost two sons and a nephew in the fighting. They were key figures at the rally and also key figures in the recent anti-Batista demonstration in downtown Miami in which 100 Cubans clashed with police in a wild March on the Cuban consulate.

The calmer forces in the anti-Batista movement realize that bickering and feuding between the various groups opposing Batista leads up a blind alley.

At this very moment, arrangements are being made between Prio's forces, the Castro organizations and the Directorio Estudiantil (student movement) for a "unity" meeting in Miami this week. They will try to work out all their differences at the meeting and present a solid front to the outside.

Besides the direct overthrow of Batista's government, the main objective of all three



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Batista Critic

groups today is to influence opinion both here and in Cuba.

### See U. S. Sympathy

"A public declaration by President Eisenhower denouncing the Batista regime as a dictatorship would end his (Ba-

tista's) hold on Cuba in 24 hours," declared Eliseo Riera-Gomez, the newspaper executive quoted extensively in another article in this series.

"Batista is more concerned with opinion in the United States than he is with opinion of the Cuban people," said Prio.

"The American people are beginning to swing to our side," said Jose Aleman, wealthy young Cuban exile and a director of the student group. "They realize we are right."

All three opposition factions denounce Batista as a Communist sympathizer despite the fact that he claims to be a Communist hater. They offer documented evidence to show

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# Cuban Revolutionaries Are Split By Feudings

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that Batista ran for the presidency in 1940 on a coalition ticket which included the Communist party.

They brand him as murderer and torturer.

What do Batista's men have to say about these charges?

Eduardo Hernandez, Cuba's consul-general in Miami, says he finds the charges of the revolutionaries incredible.

"They call President Batista murderer and torturer," said Hernandez. "But the men saying these things are murderers themselves. They have been in Cuban jails and released by the government. They are constantly going in and out of Cuba and nobody bothers them, although we know precisely what they are doing."

Hernandez said he found the various protest meeting held in Miami equally incredible.

"A mob storms the Consulate saying Batista has murdered their sons and husbands.

"Do you realize who those people were who were killed?"

## Willing To Forget

"They were part of an expeditionary force trained in the Dominican Republic and launched from Miami to raid the recognized and established government of Cuba.

"Cuban soldiers shot them defending the country they are sworn to protect. What murder?"

And, Hernandez added, the government is willing to forget the crimes of all the revolutionists if they will simply stop the bombings and resistance going on in Cuba today and recognize the elections slated for next year.

The disunity which marks the resistance groups in Miami follows the pattern of party politics in Cuba, said Hernandez.

"The real trouble in Cuba is ambition," he said. "Too many men want to be leaders."

Citing the Orthodox Party as an example, Hernandez explained that it has split into many separate parties, such as the Liberal Orthodox, the Regional Orthodox, the Historical Orthodox and the National Revolutionary Party.

Even Prio's Autentico Party is split, with one wing led by Dr. Grau Martin and the other by Prio.

Batista represents a coalition of several parties, including the Liberal, Democratic and Radical Parties.

Castro has no formally recognized party, but there seems to be little doubt that the 26th of July organization founded by Castro will one day be a political party.

## Violent Element Seen

To confuse matters further, the Orthodox Party, which has

split into so many divisions, stemmed originally from the Autentico Party.

Although the students do not have a political party, they are most active in politics. Castro got his start as a student leader, becoming president of FEU, the national federation of students.

The Directorio Estudiantil, or student directory, represents the violent element of the students who allied with Castro, said Hernandez.

"When you hear of students rioting in Havana," said Hernandez, "you must remember that there are 15,000 students at the University of Havana. Only 150 or so take part in the rioting. The rest don't believe in such measures."

## Cites Batista Gains

Hernandez said that Batista is not a dictator as his opponents claim, having been elected to office in 1954.

He said that when Batista took over in a well-planned coup in 1952 he did so to maintain order and preserve the integrity of Cuba.

"Since he has been in office Cuba has enjoyed prosperity," said Hernandez. "More public roads and public works have been built during his regime than during all other administrations.

"The Cuban people know that."