

Newsmen Predict Batista's Overthrow

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(INS)—Two American newsmen who have just returned from the mountain stronghold of Cuban rebel Fidel Castro predicted today new and successful uprising against the Batista regime within a few days.

George Prentice and Tony Faletta of the Birmingham News returned to the United States Friday after being expelled from Cuba on charges of "conspiring with the rebels."

They were arrested a few days ago by Gen. Fulgencio Batista's government troops for entering the mountains to take pictures of the rebels while on a special assignment for the National Broadcasting Company.

Prentice, 31, and spokesman for himself and photographer Faletta, said "the revolution will start in Havana and the Oriente province at approximately the same time . . . about the 15th of March."

Prentice said the dictatorship of Batista is doomed.

"The underground has as much power to start a successful revolution," he said, adding:

"The underground has arms including heavy mortars, B.A.R.'s (automatic rifles) and plenty of high explosives.

"The people hate Batista and are determined to drive him out."