

CUBANS SAID TO BE ATTACKING BATISTA PALACE

Broadcast Reports Assault on Presidential Residence by Armed Civilians.

HAVANA, March 13 (AP)—A radio broadcast this afternoon said a group of civilians including students, attacked the presidential palace in downtown Havana. The broadcast was from the commercial station Reloj, which said also that Gen. Francisco Tabernilla, chief of the army, had been dismissed.

(The United Press said heavy firing was continuing at 3:40 p.m., and was being returned from inside the palace. The firing seemed to be from sub-machineguns and possibly small mortars.)

Immediately after the announcement someone described as a member of the student federation began to speak on the radio. The station went off the air while he was in the middle of a sentence.

Students have been in the forefront of the opposition to President Fulgencio Batista since he came to power in a military coup March 10, 1952.

Fidel Castro, a former student leader, has been actively fighting army units in recent weeks from his hideout in the mountains of southeastern Cuba.

The government recently said Castro's forces had dwindled to about 20 men and represented no threat to the Batista regime.

For many months elements opposed to Batista have terrorized various cities by almost nightly bombings. Usually the bombs caused little or no damage and apparently have been exploded for the purpose of keeping the government on edge.