

BY ANDRES RIVERO

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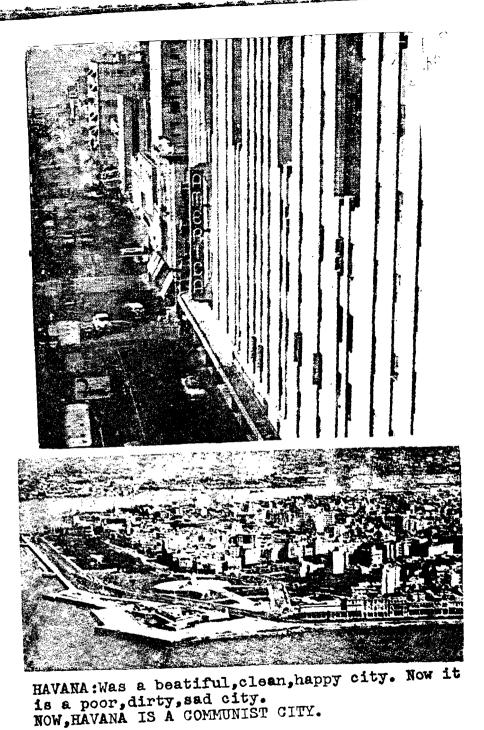


ABOUT THE AUTHOR.

ANDRES RIVERO HAS HAD A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN THE -PROBLEMS OF HIS NATIVE LAND : CUBA.JOURNALIST AND WRITER, HE PUBLISHED IN MEXICO 1960 A NO VEL CONCERNING CASTRO'S RISE TO POWER: ENTERRADO VIVO. HE -HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES TO THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS, AND MAGAZINES: TIEMPO AND RE-PLICA, HAVANA, CUBA; TODO, MEXICO

CITY; AMERICA LATINA, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA; DIARIO LAS AMERICAS, MIAMI, FLA.IN 1962 IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, HE PUBLISHED AND EDI-TED A MONTHLY MAGAZINE: CRUZADA.

HE PRESENTLY RESIDES IN ORANGEBURG, S.C. AND IS EMPLOYED-IN THE CITY Schools as an Instructor in Senish.



> -TO MR.WILLIAM J. CLARK, PRIN-CIPAL OF THE CRANGEBURG HIGH SCHOOL, WITH MY SINCERE GRAT-ITUDE FOR HIS MOST VALUABLE HELP.

THE AUTHOR

CUBA BEFORE CASTRO.

ECONOMY .

N 1958, BEFORE CASTRO, CUBA WAS HAPPY, FRIENDLY, DEMO-CRATIC. CUBA WAS FREE. CUBA WAS RICH. Rich?.

YES.LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS.

UNDER BATISTA'S CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT: -THE CUBAN PESO HAD THE SAME VALUE AS THE U.S.DOLLAR. -THE CUBAN PESO HAD THE SAME VALUE AS THE U.S.DOLLAR. -THE MINIMUN AGRICULTURAL WAGE WAS \$3.00 A DAY. SEVENTH-PLACE IN THE WORLD. -THE MINIMUN FACTORY WAGE WAS \$0.00 A DAY.EIGHT PLACE IN THE WORLD. CUBA HAD: -I PHYSICIAN FOR EACH 980 INHABITANTS.SECOND PLACE IN LA TIN AMERICA. -THE LOWEST MORTALITY RATE IN LATIN AMERICA:37.6 --FOR-EACH 1,000 CHILDREN.

-PUBLIC HOSPITALS FOR THE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. -The biggest percentage of budget appropriated for educa

TION:23 %.FIRST PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA. -UNEMPLOYEMENT:7.1 %.FIRST PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA. -THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS PROTECTING THE WORKERS WERE-THE MOST ADVANCED IN THIS HEMISPHERE, INCLUDING THE U.S.

CE IN THE WORLD. -INCOME FROM TOURIST TRADE DURING 1958: 56.9 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

CUBA IS A SMALL COUNTRY: 44,206 SQUARE MILES AND SEVEN-MILLIONS INHABITANTS:BUT LET'S SEE SOME FIGURES COMPAR-ING IT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IN 1958. THESE FIGURES ARE FROM THE "PANAMERICAN UNION" RE-PORTS.

RADIO SETS.

I-U.S..... I FOR EACH 2 INHABITANTS. 2-CUBA..... I FOR EACH 5 INHABITANTS. (SECOND PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA.) 3-USSR..... I FOR EACH 20 INHABITANTS.

TELEPHONES.

					INHABITANTS.		
2-CUBA	ł	FOR	EACH	38	INHABITANTS.	(Third	PLACE IN
						LATIN	AMERICA.)
3USSR • • • • •	ļ	FOR	EACH	580	INHABITANTS.		

AUTOMOBILES.

1-U.S..... I FOR EACH 3 INHABITANTS. 2-CUBA.... I FOR EACH 39 INHABITANTS. (THIRD PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA.) 3-USSR.... I FOR EACH 400 INHABITANTS.

TELEVISION SETS.

I-U.S..... I FOR EACH 2 INHABITANTS. 2-CUBA.... I FOR EACH 18 INHABITANTS. (FIRST PLACE IN LATIN AMERICA.) 3-USSR..... I FOR EACH 85 INHABITANTS.

RAILROADS.

1-CUBA..... I KM.RAILROAD FOR EACH 7 KM. OF TERRITORY. (FIRST PLACE IN WORLD) 2-U.S.... I KM.RAILROAD FOR EACH 25 KM. OF TERRITORY.

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3-USSR I KM.RAILROAD FOR EACH 185 KM.OF TERRITORY.

BEFORE CASTRO OVERTHREW THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT CU BA WAS, COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING, ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

WAS BATISTA A DICTATOR ?.

ANY AMERICANS TOO HASTELY PIN THE TITLE OF "DICTA TOR" ON STRONG LEADERS OF LATIN AMERICAN COUN-TRIES.BEFORE ONE CAN PROPERLY CRITICIZE THE STRONG AND FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP SO NECESSARY IN MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, ONE MUST HAVE A DEEP UNDERSTAND ING OF THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED AND THE TEMPERAMENTS AND HERITAGES OF THESE PEOPLES.MA-NY NORTH AMERICANS MAKE THE MISTAKE OF EVALUATING ALL FOREIGNERS AGAINST THEIR OWN UNIQUE SYSTEM OF VALUES.

WHILE PRESIDENTS EISENHOWER, KENNEDY AND JOHNSON MAY USE FEDERAL TROOPS TO ENFORCE COURT ORDERS WITHOUT BEING DES IGNATED AS "DICTATORS", PRESIDENT BATISTA IS CRITICIZED FOR USING TROOPS TO SUPPRESS COMMUNIST INSURRECTION : WHILE MANY AMERICANS APPLAUD. OR AT LEAST SECRETLY CON-DONE THE ROUGH TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE VIET CONG PRIS ONERS BY THEIR SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAPTORS, SUPPORTED BY A-MERICAN FORCES, NO SUCH SYMPATHY WAS GIVEN PRESIDENT BA-TISTA, IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS. BETANCOURT OF VENEZUELA WAS NOT CONSIDERED AD DICTATOR WHEN HE USED SEVERE MEASURES TO REPEL COMMUNIST SUBVER-SION; NOR DO YOU CRITICIZE GENERAL HUMBERTO CASTELLO BLAN CO FOR HIS ANTI-COMMUNIST REVOLUTION IN BRAZIL. EMERGENCY POWERS ARE GRANTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING TIMES OF WAR THAT WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE PEOPLE DURING TIMES OF PEACE, CUBA IN 1958 WAS AT WAR-WITH THE COMMUNISTS.YET BATISTA WORKED WITHIN THE CONSTI TUTION, WHICH GRANTED HIM CERTAIN EMERGENCY POWERS, WHEN NECESSARY, TO COMBAT THE COMMUNISTS, THESE ARE NOT THE METHODS OF A DICTATOR.

BATISTA, IN 1952, LED AN ARMY REVOLUTION THAT OVERTHREW THE GOVERNMENT OD DR. CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, THE CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CUBA SINCE 1948. WHY DID

BATISTA USE ARMED FORCE TO OVERTHROW THE LEGALLE ELECTED GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN OPPOSE IT AT THE POLLS ?.IN THAT YEAR, 1952, CONDITIONS IN CUBA WERE SIMILARS TO THOSE FOUND IN MANY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TODAY.THE-STRONGEST POLITICAL PARTY,THE "PARTIDO DEL ^PUEBLO CUBANO ORTODOXO",HAD BECOME INFILTRATED BY THE COMMUNISTS,ONE A YOUNG LAWYER BY THE NAME OF FIDEL CASTRO.THEY WERE HEAVI LY FAVORED TO WIN THE ELECTIONS THAT WERE TO BE HELD IN JUNE 1952.BATISTA MOVED BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO BLOCK WHAT HE KNEW WOULD BE A COMMUNIST CONTROL OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT BY INFILTRATION.

You may reason that a coup d'etat is not the way to solve political problems.Generally you are right. Batistashould have opposed within the framework of the constitution.To this we agree.But illegally overthrowing a covernment does not pre-suppose a dictator\$hip.Batista was not dictator.

DURING HIS FIRST TWO YEAR (1952-1954) AS THE REVOLUTION ARY LEADER HE WORKED WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPU BLIC, MAKING ONLY NECESSARY CHANGES TO LEGALIZE THE REVO-LUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

CUBA WAS FREE DURING THESE YEARS. THE PEOPLE WERE HAPPY AND THE COUNTRY BEGAN TO PROSPER. POLITICAL PARTIES, BOTH THOSE IN SUPPORT OF AND IN THE OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERN-MENT WERE WORKING FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS.

IN 1954 BATISTA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CUBA BY THE MA JORITY OF THE POPULATION.HE HELD OFFICE UNTIL DECEMBER -31,1958, WHEN HE FLED THE COUNTRY.DURING THAT TIME THE-CONSTITUTION WAS RESPECTED AND THE CONGRESS WAS EFFEC-TIVE WITH MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES FULLY REPRE-SENTED.THE COURTS WERE FREE FROM POLITICAL CONTROL AND THE JUSTICES, SOME WHO WERE APPOINTED BEFORE BATISTA, TOOK OVER AND POLITICALLY OPPOSED HIM, WOULD NOT BE INTIMI-DATED.THE PRESS ENJOYED FREEDOM TO EXPRESS ITS OPINIONS, WHICH IT OFTEN DID, AND WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES ASKED FOR CENSURE, AN ARTICLE IN THE CONSTITUTION PERMITTED IT. THE PEOPLE WERE FREE TO MOVE, TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS, TO-HAVE ASSOCIATIONS, TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO THE COUNTRY, TO FREELY INVEST THEIR MONEY, AND TO PRACTICE THE RELIGION -OF THEIR CHOICE.POLITICAL EXILES WERE FEW IN NUMBER AND

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THEIR REASONS WERE MORE ECONOMIC THAN POLITICAL. THERE WAS AN ELECTION IN 1958 IN WHICH BATISTA DID NOT OFFER-FOR REELECTION.

FLOWERS AGAINST BULLETS ?.



ATISTA HAD TO BE STRONG. WHY ?. May I relate a little story that affected me per sonally:

"IN JULY 1958, CASTRO WAS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF LA SIERRA MAESTRA.DR.ANDRES RIVERO AGUERO, PRESIDENTIAL CAN-DIDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES, HAD A BROTHER, NICOLAS, WHO LIVED IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA, ORIENTE PROVINCE.HE HAD NE VER BEEN ACTIVE IN POLITICS AND WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PRI VATE CONCERN IN THAT CITY.HE WAS A GOOD FAMILY MAN WITH MANY FRIENDS. EVERYONE RESPECTED HIM.

SINCE HIS BROTHER WAS RUNNING FOR OFFICE, NICOLAS, THOUGHT THE LEAST HE COULD DO WAS PUT UP SOME POLITICAL POSTERS-IN HIS BEHALF. HOWEVER, THE REBELS WOULD HAVE NO OPPOSI-TION TO THEIR PLANS FOR CUBA, SO THEY SENT AN ANONYMOUS -NOTE WARNING HIM TO STOP ANY AND ALL ACTIVITIES ON BE-HALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE OF CUBA. EARLIER IN JUNE, NI COLAS HAD COME TO HAVANA TO SEE HIS BROTHER. THE PRESIDEN TIAL CANDIDATE WARNED HIM OF THE DANGER HE FACED FROM-THE TERRORISTS. BUT NICOLAS PLANNED TO RETIRE IN A FEW-MONTHS AND HE FELT IT HIS DUTY TO SUPPORT HIS BROTHER IN AT LEAST THIS SMALL WAY.

NICOLAS RIVERO AGUERO LIVED JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM HIS OFFICE, AND HE WOULD WALK HOME FOR LUNCH EACH DAY. A JEEP WITH TWO MEN IN IT TRAILED HIM TO LUNCH ONE DAY. AS HIS WIFE OPENED THE DOOR TO ALLOW HIM TO ENTER A FUSIL-LADE OF SHOT RANG OUT.NICOLAS SLUMPED WITH MANY SHOTS IN HIS BACK.HIS WIFE WAS WOUNDED IN THE ARM AND THEIR SMALL DAUGHTER-SEVEN YEARS OLD-SAW HER FATHER MURDERED.NICOLAS DIED TWO HOURS LATER.THAT NIGHT I HEARD THE REBEL RADIO BRAGGING OF THE MURDER.THEY SAID IT WAS "AN HEROIC AGT OF PATRIOTIC REBELS".

THE SAME HAPPENED WITH COLONEL ANTONIO BLANCO RICO, CHIEF. of the Military Intelligence Bureau, a decent person, A.

GENTLEMAN, A WELL-EDUCATED MAN. HE WAS SHOT IN A NIGHT-CLUB.THE SAME HAPPENED WITH TATA PEDRAZA -20 YEARS OLD-SON OF A: FORMER GENERAL, FRIEND OF BATISTA, BUT NOT INVOL-VED IN POLITICS AT THAT TIME. THE SAME HAPPENED WITH MANY OTHERS. POLITICIANS MURDERED IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES; SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN MURDERED WITH KNIVES IN BUSES OR TRAINS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

MAGALLY MARTINEZ WAS A BEATIFUL GIRL-18 YEARS OLD- VIVA-CIOUS AND HAPPY. NEITHER SHE NOR HER FAMILY WERE INVOL-VED IN POLITICS. ONE NIGHT MAGALLY WITH HER FIANCE AND-HER PARENTS, WENT TO A NIGHT CLUB IN HAVANA FOR THE EVE-NING. A BOMB, PLACED NEAR HER TABLE BY A CASTRO TERRORIST EXPLODED AND TORE OUT HER RIGHT ARM. SHE WAS MUTILATED -FOR LIFE. MANY BOMBS MUTILATED SCORES OF PEOPLE IN CUBA DURING 1956-57-58, YEARS THAT CASTRO WAS IN "LA SIERRA MA ESTRA".

THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE REBELS DURING THOSE -YEARS WERE TERRIBLES. BOMBS EXPLODING IN THEATERS, HOUSES AND EVEN SCHOOLS ALL OVER CUBA. MOLOTOV COCKTAILS EX-PLODED IN THE BIGGEST DEPARTMENT STORES OF THE ISLAND. -SUGAR PLANTATIONS WERE SABOTAGED. GRENADES THROWN IN BUS-ES, AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS.

MUCH OF THE AMERICAN PRESS WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH CASTRO-AT THIS TIME AND UNDERPLAYED TERRORISM.NOT SO THE CHAR-LESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, "THE NEWS AND COURIER".THIS NEWS-PAPER RECOGNIZED EARLY THE TRUE CHARACTER OF CASTRO'S -REVOLUTION AND EDITORIALIZED ACCURATLEY.LISTED BELOW-ARE A FEW EXCERPTS FROM THAT REPUTABLE NEWSPAPER:

"ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, FIDEL CASTRO'S SOLDIERS ATTACKED CU-BAN CITIZENS WITH BOMBS PLANTED IN STORES AND THEATERS -IN HAVANA. THE "SOLDIERS" THREATENED TO AMBUSH CELEBRANTS. AT NEW YEAR PARTIES. "-JANUARY 2,1958.

"THE REBELS HOPE TO DESTROY THE BATISTA GOVERNMENT BY DE STROYING THE SUGAR CANE. THEY ALSO WILL DESTROY INNOCENT CUBANS WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING IN THE FIELDS AND FACTORIES -DEC.4,1957.

"CUBAN TERRORISTS KIDNAPED CITIZENS AND DESTROYED PROP-ERTY IN A RAID THAT SEALED OFF MANZANILLO,A CITY OF ONE

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HUNDRED THOUSAND POPULATION. THE GUERRILLA FORCES OF FI-DEL CASTRO ARE WAGING WAR ON CIVILIANS IN AN ATTEMPT TO HARASS THE BATISTA GOVERNMENT." JAN. 16, 1958.

"THE BEHAVIOR OF THE REBELS IS ONE MORE PROOF THAT WE-HAVE SAID ALL ALONG IS TRUE: CASTRO'S FOLLOWERS ARE NOT SOLDIERS OF FREEDOM. THEY ARE BANDITS WHO WILL TAKE THEIR LOOT WHERE THEY CAN FIND IT."-JUNE 29, 1958.

THE GOVERMENT WAS FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND GUARANTEE THE LIVES AND PROPERTIES OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE.IT WAS FORCED TO ACT WITH SEVERITY A-GAINST THOSE CONVICTED OF TREASON OR CRIMINAL ACTS OF -TERRORISM.THE GOVERNMENT MADE USE OF THE EMERGENCY LAW AND THE ARMY AND POLICE MET FORCE WITH FORCE.BANDITS AND TERRORISTS WERE DEALT WITH SEVERITY UNDER THE PENAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC.FRIENDS OF CASTRO YELPED ABOUT THE DICTA TORSHIP OF BATISTA.BUT THIS WAS NOT THE RESULT OF A DIC-TATORSHIP,THIS WAS WAR AGAINST COMMUNISM.AND THE COMMU-NISTS DON'T FOLLOW ANY OF THE RULES FOR WAGING WAR THAT HAVE GENERALLY BEEN FOLLOWED BY COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN WORLD.THEY USE EVERY DIRTY TRICK IN THE BOOK.THEY TERRO RIZE INNOCENT CIVILIANS WITH BOMBS,DYNAMITE AND BULLETS.

YOU CANNOT ANSWER THEM WITH FLOWERS.

ASK YOUR TROOPS IN VIET NAM.

ELECTIONS: NOVEMBER 1958.

ATISTA'S PRESIDENTIAL TERM WAS SUPPOSED TO END IN FEBRUARY 1959, AND TO THE LAST MINUTE HE WAS FIRM IN RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSION. HE-DID THE SAME IN 1944 WHEN A POLITICAL ENEMY, DR.-GRAU SAN MARTIN, WON OVER BATISTA'S CANDIDATE, DR. CARLOS SALADRIGAS. GENERAL ELECTIONS WERE CONVOKED FOR NOVEMBER-3, 1958. FOUR CANDIDATES WERE RUNNING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE. IN THE OPPOSITION WAS DR. RAMON GRAU SAN MARTIN, -BATISTA'S TRADITIONAL ADVERSARY, WELL-KNOWN AND WITH MANY FOLLOWERS, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CUBA IN 1933 AND IN 1944; DR. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CONS-TITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY (1940), FORMER SENATOR AND MINISTER. AND SR.ALBERTO SALAS AMARO, EDITOR OF ONE NEWSPAPER IN HA VANA.THE GOVERNMENT COALITION PICKED DR.ANDRES RIVERO A-GUERO, BATISTA'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN 1941, MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN 1952, SENATOR IN 1954, AND PRIMER MINISTER IN 1957.DR.RIVERO ^AGUERO WAS A MAN OF WIDE EXPERIENCE, -RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND THE OPPOSITION ALIKE.

DR.RIVERO WON THE ELECTIONS OVERWHELMINGLY.HE HAD THE -SUPPORT OF THE FOUR STRONGEST PARTIES AND THE OPPOSITION REMAINED DIVIDED.CASTRO TRIED TO INTIMIDATED THE POPULA-CE AWAY FROM THE POLLS.HE PROCLAIMED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF LA SIERRA MAESTRA, THE "REVOLUTIONARY LAW #2", "OFFERING " THE EXECUTION WALL TO THE POLITICIANS AND EVEN THE PEO-PLE IF THEY VOTED IN THE ELECTIONS.BUT THE CUBANS DID -VOTE.IN THE FIVE PROVINCES EXCEPTING ORIENTE, WHERE THE COMMUNIST WERE ESPECIALLY STRONG, AT LEAST 65 % OF THE E-LECTORAL POPULATION VOTED.BUT CASTRO DID NOT BELIEVE IN FREE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.COMMUNISTS DO NOT BELIEVE IN-FREE ELECTIONS.CASTRO WAS A COMMUNIST.

AFTER THE ELECTIONS, DR. RIVERO AGUERO HAD A FEW MEETINGSwith the U.S. Ambassador in Cuba, MR. Earl T. Smith. The President-elect sought the full support of the American gov ernment to the new regime. In exchange he offered:

-To convoke the day after his inaguration to a Constitutional $^{A}\mbox{ssembly}_{\bullet}$

-TO CALL ON FIDEL CASTRO IN A NEW EFFORT TO PACIFY THE COUNTRY.

-TO CONVOKE AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY, A NEW GEN-ERAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE AND WITH -THE PARTICIPATION OF FIDEL CASTRO IF HE DECIDED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

MR.SMITH RESPECTED THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF DR.RIVERO AND TRIED TO HELP HIM.HE WENT SEVERAL TIMES TO WASHINGTON TO GET THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE NEW REGIME.BUT ALL WAS USELESS,THE U.S. DECISION WAS FIRM:NOT TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW CUBAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

WHY ?.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CONJECTURES ABOUT THIS, BUT MR. SMITH HIMSELF MAKES THE ANSWER VERY CLEAR IN HIS RECENT BOOK -"THE FOURTH FLOOR" IN WHICH HE SAYS THAT IN THE U.S. -

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STATE DEPARTMENT THERE WAS A STRONG GROUP SUPPORTING CAS TRO "AS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR CUBA".

As you see, CUBA WAS ABANDONED INTO THE LAPS OF COMMUNISM.

REMEMBER CHINA, 1949 ?.

We wish to be objective in this article:Batista made mistakes. Everybody does.But they are so evident if one isholding an important position, and much more so if one is the President of a Nation.Any executive in any country makes mistakes.Batista did.But he was a good President and the History of Cuba will so record.The events are <u>Re</u> cent and there are figures that tell the truth.

BATISTA WAS ALWAYS A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. HE UN-DERSTOOD AND HATED COMMUNISM. HE WAS FIGHTING AGAINST THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY IN CUBA. BATISTA WAS NOT A DICTATOR. HE WAS FORCED TO TAKE STRONG COUNTER MEASURES AT THE TIME. BUT HE RESPECTED DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HE LED A -DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

Many Cubans believe that one of the reasons Castro overthrew Batista was because Batista was not a dictator.

AND MAYBE THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THAT.

Please, any mail to:

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CUBA TODAY

HOW LONG CASTRO HAS BEEN A COMMUNIST ?.

N JANUARY 1959, CASTRO CAME TO POWER. MANY PEOPLE STILL ARE SAYING THAT AT THAT TIME CAS-TRO WAS NOT A COMMUNIST, THAT HE WAS JUST A GOOD LI-BERAL WITH A PLAN FOR SOCIAL REFORMS. THAT, UNDER THE FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, HE CHANGED HIS IDEOLOGY AND BE-CAME A COMMUNIST. THEY SAY HE BETRAYED THE REVOLUTION AND MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS WHO FOUGHT WITH HIM.

THEY REASON THUSLY:

-CASTRO WAS A GENUINE PATRIOT. -HIS REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM WAS A DEMOCRATIC ONE. -HE CHANGED TO COMMUNISM AFTER BAY OF PIGS.

LET'S ANSWER THOSE PEOPLE WITH SOME FACTS:

-IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1959, CASTRO AND HIS MEN EXE-CUTED-ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL INFORMATION-975 PATRIOTIC CUBANS, AMONG THEM THE CREAM OF THE OFFICER AND NON-COM-MISSIONED OFFICER CORPS, ATTORNEYS, JUDGES AND INNOCENT -PEOPLE. IN SIX MONTHS THEY CONDEMNED IN KANGAROO COURTS, TO LONG PRISON TERMS, ABOUT 10,000 MEN AND WOMEN: JOURNAL-ISTS, DOCTORS, TEACHERS OR ANYONE WHO REMOTELY SUPPORTED -THE FORMER FREE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

-IN FEBRUARY 1959, THEY CHANGED THE CONSTITUTION AND DE-LETED THE WORD "GOD" FROM ITS PHRASES.

-THEY ABOLISHED THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

-THEY CONFISCATED MANY NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY AND ES-TABLISHED CENSURESHIP OF THE PRESS.

-In the first six months Castro's regime violated the a-sylum treaties signed with different Latin $^{\rm A}$ merican coun

TRIES.



- Castro without beard.

-Castro with beard.



Fidel Castro's two faces. Only one purpose CRIME.

CRET POLICE WITH ITS SYSTEM OF INFORMERS.

-IN JANUARY 1959, THEY LEGALIZED THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND REESTABLISHED TWO MONTHS LATER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

THE ABOVE FACTS ARE IRREFUTABLE. THUS:

-CASTRO WAS NEVER A PATRIOT. HE WAS AND REMAINS A CRIMI-NAL.

-HE WAS AN AMBITIOUS, EGOTISTICAL MANIAC. HE HAS ALWAYS -BEEN.

-HE NEVER CHANGED HIS IDEOLOGY. HE HID IT. HE ALWAYS WAS AND REMAINS A "GOOD DIABOLIC COMMUNIST".

IF YOU REVIEW CASTRO'S LIFE YOU WILL SEE THAT MANY OF -HIS FRIENDS DURING HIS UNIVERSITY DAYS WERE COMMUNISTS.

-HE PARTICIPATED IN THE BLOODY "BOGOTAZO", IN BOGOTA, CO-LOMBIA IN 1949; THAT WAS COMMUNIST INITIATED AND CASTRO WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS.

-HE ATTACKED A MILITARY BARRACKS IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA ON JULY 26, 1953. Assisting HIM WERE KNOWN COMMUNISTS.

-IN MEXICO, WHEN HE WAS PREPARING A FORCE TO LAND IN CUBA HE REMAINED IN CONTACT WITH THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN THAT CITY.HIS INSTRUCTOR IN GUERRILLA TACTICS WAS GENERAL AL-BERTO BAYO, A SPANISH COMMUNIST.

-IN THE MOUNTAINS OF LA SIERRA MAESTRA, HIS PRINCIPAL PAR TISANS WERE CHE GUEVARA, AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AGENT FROM ARGENTINA; HIS BROTHER, RAUL, WHO ATTENDED A COMMUNIST INDOCTRINATION SCHOOL IN CZECHOLOVAKIA IN 1952; CARLOS RA FAEL RODRIGUEZ, AN OLD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY; CAMI LO CIENFUEGOS A MEMBER OF A YOUTH COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION; UNIVERSO SANCHEZ, A MAN WITH A RECORD OF COMMUNIST ACTIV-ITLES; AND MANY OTHERS.

-ON ASSUMING POWER HE BEGAN ACTING AS A TRUE COMMUNIST . OF COURSE, HE NEVER ADMITTED THAT HE WAS A COMMUNIST, BUT HE THOUGHT AS A COMMUNIST, TALKED AS COMMUNIST , AND ACTED

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HATED THE ADMISSION OF BEING DUPED, STILL CLUNG TO THE I-DEA OF CASTRO, THE PATRIOT.

BUT IT WAS USELESS, THE PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE US WHEN WE SAID REPEATEDLY,"CASTRO IS A COMMU NIST".

THEY HAD TO WAIT UNTIL CASTRO HIMSELF SAID IN AUGUST 62: "I AM A MARXIST-LENNINIST. I WAS BEFORE AND I ALWAYS WILL BE¹¹

BUT, NOW, DOES THIS SURPRISE YOU ?. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN U.S. LATIN AMERICA AND THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD WHO ARE STILL SAYING THAT CASTRO IS NOT A COMMUNIST.

HOW FRESH IS MY MEMORY OF HOW SOME OF YOUR MOST RESPEC-TED LEADERS EULOGIZED MAD SE TUNG AS THE "PEASANT AGRA-RIAN REFORMER¹¹, I WOULD BE THE LAST TO IMPUGN THEIR M0-TIVES, BUT I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO CHALLENGE THEIR JUDG-MENTS.



mer's slavery.

THE CUBAN EXPERIMENT.

HE COMMUNIST EXPERIMENT IN CUBA FOLLOWS FAMILIAR PATTERNS.CASTRO AND HIS HENCHMEN TOOK A RICH, HAP-PY, FRIENDLY, DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY AND IN A FEW YEARS THEY HAVE DESTITUTED IT. THE ECONOMY IS IN CHAOS.SE VERE SHORTAGES IN FOOD, MEDICINES, GOODS AND SERVICES EX-IST. THE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND OPTIMISM OF THE CREA-TIVE PERSON HAS BEEN CRUSHED. THESE COMMUNISTS ARE REALLY MAGICIANS OF THE EVIL.

OBSERVE THESE FACTS:

-IN 56 YEARS OF DEMOCRATIC COVERNMENT (FROM 1902 TO 1958 THE NATIONAL DEBT OF THE REPUBLIC WAS \$391,500,000.00.

-FROM 1959 THROUGH 1960 (JUST TWO YEARS OF CASTRO REGIME THE DEBT INCREASED BY \$357,000,000.00.AS YOU SEE, ALMOST THE SAME AMOUNT IN TWO YEARS AS IN ALL THE YEARS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME, AND UP TO THIS MOMENT WE DON'T KNOW -FOR SURE HOW MUCH CASTRO'S REGIME OWES TO RUSSIA, BUT -JUST TAKING IN CONSIDERATION THAT THE COMMUNIST GOVERN---MENT IN CUBA IS COSTING RUSSIA AN ESTIMATE OF ONE --MILLION DOLLARS A DAY, WE ASSUME THAT CASTRO OWES RUSSIA AN ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNT OF MONEY.

-THE RESERVES IN GOLD, DOLLARS AND CONVERTIBLE GOLD VAL-UES WERE IN 1958: 373 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. IN 1962, THEY WERE JUST 144 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

-THE SUGAR PRODUCTION IN CUBA IS NOW A LITTLE MORE THAN 4 MILLION TONS. MORE THAN TWO MILLION LESS THAN BEFORE.

-THE CUBAN PESO DOES NOT HAVE INTERNATIONAL VALUE. IN -THE BLACK MARKET ONE DOLLAR BUYS 15 PESOS.

-THE MORTALITY RATE IS NOW ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE -WORLD BECAUSE THE LACK OF MEDICINES, DOCTORS, UNDERSTAFFED AND ABANDONED HOSPITALS.

-THE BEST CUBAN DOCTORS ARE LIVING NOW IN EXILE. CASTRO-IS TRYING TO SOLVE THIS SITUATION WITH SOME RUSSIAN PHYS ICIANS WHO IN MANY CASES ARE USING THE CUBAN PATIENTS -IN EXPERIMENTS IN THEIR COMMUNIST THEORIES IN MEDICINE.-YOU CAN IMAGINE THE BARBAROUS RESULTS.

-THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF OLD CUBA HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THE STRONGEST SCHOOL SYSTEM IN CUBA, THE PRIVATE, HAS BEEN ABOLISHED.ALL THE SCHOOLS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE STATE -AND ARE OPERATING AS INDOCTRINATION CENTERS.

-THE SOCIAL LAWS THAT CUBANS WERE SO PROUD OF HAVE HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED.

Some examples are*

-FREEDOM OF ORGANIZATION:ABOLISHED. -THE RIGHT TO STRIKE:ABOLISHED.

-MINIMUN SALARY: ABOLISHED.

-MAXIMUN WORK PERIOD OF EIGHT HOURS:ABOLISHED. (THE CU-BAN WORKER IS WORKING NOW AN AVERAGE OF 12 HOURS PER DAY IN ADDITION TO "VOLUNTARY" WORK IN THE MILITIA AND ON -THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS. -JOB TENURE:ABOLISHED.

-ANNUAL VACATIONS: ABOLISHED.

THE CUBAN WORKER TODAY IS NO MORE NO LESS THAN A WORKER IN A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, THAT IS: A SLAVE.

-THE TOBACCO AND COFFEE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN REDUCED BY ONE-HALF.

-TOURIST TRADE IS GONE-RESULTING IN A LOSS OF MORE THAN 50 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR.

-THE PEOPLE OF CUBA ARE HUNGRY. THERE IS LITTLE FOOD TO-COVER THE ESSENTIAL NECESSITIES. FOOD IS RATIONED. AN IN DIVIDUAL'S RATION INCLUDES JUST: 10 EGGS A MONTH; 1 2 -OUNCES OF COFFEE A WEEK; 3/4 POUND OF MEAT A WEEK; SUGAR : 4 POUNDS A MONTH; WITH MILK AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE CHIL-DRENS UNDER 2 YEARS OLD AND PERSONS OVER 65. AND THIS ALL DEPENDS ON THE AVAILABLE FOOD STOCKS. OFTEN THESE QUOTAS ARE NOT MET.

GIME IN CUBA:

-UNITED FRUIT CO. -ESSO STANDARD OIL. -SINCLAIR OIL CO. -FIRST NATIONAL BANK. -CHASE MANHATTAN BANK. -CUBA TRADING CO. -TEXAS CO.(WEST INDIES). AND MANY MORE.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN CUBA IN 1958 WERE OVER ONE BIL-LION DOLLARS.TODAY THERE ARE NO AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN CUBA; THE ONLY FORIEGN "INVESTMENTS" COME FROM RUSSIA AND HER SATELLITES AND THESE ONLY IN WEAPONS, SOLDIERS AND IN THE BLOOD OF CUBANS PATRIOTS.

-THERE IS NO FREEDOM IN CUBA.

-NO POLITICAL FREEDOM: I.NO ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD -SINCE CASTRO TOOK OVER. 2. THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC -IS CLOSED. 3. THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COURTS OF JUS-TICES ARE OPERATING AS "TRIBUNALES POPULARES" - POPULAR COURTS. THE JUDGES ARE ILLITERATE MEN WHO ARE FULL OF -HATE AND REVENGE. 4. THE PRESS IS UNDER COMPLETE GOVERN-MENT CONTROL.NO ONE CAN EXPRESS A POLITICAL OPINION A-GAINST THE REGIME. 5. THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION. THE ONLY ASSOCIATIONS ALLOWED IN CUBA ARE BRANCHES-WOMEN WORKERS, YOUNG MEN-OF THE "PARTIDO UNIDO DE LA REVOLUCION -THE NEW NAME FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

-NO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: 1. THE STRONGEST RELIGION IN CUBA THE ROMAN CATHOLIC, HAS BEEN DESTROYED. MOST OF THE CUBANS PRIESTS AND BISHOPS ARE NOW LIVING IN EXILE. MANY OF THE CHURCHES ARE BEING USED AS SUGAR WAREHOUSES. 2. THE CU-BAN PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER FREE TO CHOOSE A RELIGIOUS -SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THERE ARE GOVERNMENT CONTROL-LED SCHOOLS WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT ATHEISM.

UNDER THE GUISE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CUBANS MAY AT-TEND CHURCHES THAT STILL OPEN FOR SERVICES, BUT THEY GO -AT THEIR OWN RISK, AND SOMETIMES THAT RISK IS MOST SERI-OUS, DON'T FORGET THAT IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOD YOU ARE A-GAINST THE MATERIALISTIC DOCTRINE, SO YOU ARE AGAINST CO-

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No democracy. In January 1959, Cuba was forced to change from democracy to communism.

CUBA LIVES TODAY UNDER ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL TYRANNIES OF MODERN TIMES:COMPARABLE ONLY WITH HITLER'S GERMANY , STALIN'S $R_{\rm USSIA}$ and Mao Se Tung's China.

AND FINALLY, SINCE 1959, THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 10,000 EXECUTIONS IN CUBA. THERE ARE MORE THAN 70,000 POLITICAL-PRISONERS, MORE THAN 300,000 EXILES AND MORE THAN 500,000 CUBANS WHO WANT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

CUBA IS A HUGE MILITARY CAMP WITH RUSSIANS, MILITIA, ROCK-ETS AND MIGS AIRPLANES. IN A LATE REPORT THE REPUTABLE -"CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR A FREE CUBA"STATED THAT THERE -ARE 21 GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES INSTALLATIONS, 4 BATTALIONS OF FROG MISSILES AND 152 SOVIET SA-2 MISSILES IN CUBA-TODAY.



-More than -17,000 cubans have escapedfrom Cuba by boat.They have arrived in The United States looking for help to go back, and fight.

TWO WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES LOST.

TIES TO HELP IN THE LIBERATION OF CUBA.

-THE FIRST ONE WAS DURING THE BAY OF PIGS WHEN THE CUBAN BRIGADE WAS ABANDONED INTO THE HANDS OF 150,000 -COMMUNIST MERCENARIES. THAT DAY AMERICAN PRESTIGE AS LEA-DER OF THE FREE WORLD PLUMMETED.

-THE SECOND OPPORTUNITY WAS DURING THE MISSILE CRISIS IN 1962.ON THAT MEMORABLE DAY,OCTOBER 22,1962,THE UNITED -STATES REGAINED ITS LOST PRESTIGE,BUT IN THE FOLLOWING -DAYS,WEEKS AND MONTHS,AS THE UNITED STATES FAILED TO FOL LOW UP THE PROMISES EXTRACTED FROM KRUSCHEV,THAT RE-GAINED PRESTIGE TUMBLED.WE ALL SEE HOW THINGS TURNED FOR THE BETTER IN VIET NAM WITH THE ADOPTION OF A TOUGH POLI-CY.

BUT, WHO IS MORE IMPORTANT: VIET NAM 10,000 MILES AWAY OR CUBA JUST 90 MILES AWAY FROM KEY WEST ?.

LET'S BE FAIR; LET'S SAY BOTH ARE IMPORTANT.

BOTH ?. THEN, WHAT IS HAPPENING ?.

ARE THE VIET CONG COMMUNISTS WORSE THAT THE CUBANS ?.

OR IS THE FREEDOM OF ASIA MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FREE-DOM OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE ?.

OR IS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FEARS THAT RUSSIA WILL GO TO A NUCLEAR WAR FOR CUBA ?.

IS IT THAT ?. NO II.EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT RUSSIA WON'T GO TO WAR FOR CUBA AS THEY HAVEN'T GONE FOR VIET NAM.

DON'T BE CONFUSED, THE COMMUNISTS ARE NO MORE FOOLS. NOR " ARE THEY SEVEN FEET TALL. WHAT SHOULD THE UNITED STATES DO ?.

HERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT-CAN DO TO FORCE COMMUNISM OUT OF CUBA. THEY SHOULD START BY GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO THE CUBANS WHO -WANT TO LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY.

DURING THE PAST YEAR U.S.POLICY REGARDING CUBA HAS BEEN VERY UNCERTAIN.EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS AGAINST COMMUNISM AND LOGICALLY AGAINST CASTRO.BUT THAT-IT IS NOT ENOUGH.IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR OUR CAUSE THAT THE WORLD KNOWS THIS COUNTRY IS WITH THE FREE CUBANS.AND MORE THAN THAT:PROVE IT.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS NOT MENTIONED CUBA SINCE HE HAS -BEEN IN OFFICE. THE BLOCKADE IS A HELP BUT IT IS NOT COM-PLETE ENOUGH. IT IS ONLY PARTIAL. THE UNITED STATES MUST -BE VERY FIRM WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS FRANCE, ENGLAND, LEBA-NON, HOLLAND, MEXICO, JAPAN AND OTHERS AND INSIST THAT THEY SUSPEND ANY TRADE WITH CASTRO. GIVE THEM A CLEAR CHOICE : STOP THEIR TRADE WITH CUBA OR FORFEIT U.S. AID OR SUP-PORT IN THEIR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

THE UNITED STATES MUST GIVE FULL AND ABSOLUTE SUPPORT TO THE CUBANS PATRIOTS AND TO THE CUBAN GROUPS OPERATING IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE U.S. NAVAL FORCES SHOULD AID, OR AT -LEAST STAND ASIDE WHEN THESE GROUPS LAUNCH ATTACKS A-GAINST MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

THE UNITED STATES MUST COOPERATE WITH LATIN AMERICAN -COUNTRIES WHO ARE READY TO OPPOSE OR EVEN FIGHT AGAINST-CASTRO. THEY SHOULD CONSULT WITH THESE COUNTRIES IN DEVE-LOPING POLICIES NEEDED TO SOLVE THE CUBAN SITUATION. DUE TO THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF THE MAJORITY OF THESE COUN-TRIES, THEIR SIMILAR CULTURES AND HISTORIES, THEY BEST -KNOW HOW TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN LATIN AMERICA.

THE MEANS TO FIGHT.

AND IF YOU ARE CONCERNED OVER THE DIVISION AMONG THE CU-BANS, DON'T BE.

All the Cubans will be united when the moment to fight $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ gainst Castro arrives.



Children marching through the streets of Havana. The future of the young people of Cuba isvery dark, unless......

WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD DO ?.



E,THE CUBAN PEOPLE,BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. We know that you want to help us,but sometimes – you are not sure of the best way. May I offer these suggestions:

-WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN ABOUT CUBA. Ask him what is ${\rm h}\underline{\rm A}$ ppening with it.

-DON'T ALLOW THE CUBAN PROBLEM TO BE FORGOTTEN.

You may forget, if you wish, that Cuba exists and is just-90 miles away, and that the communists are there, but they won't forget and they won't stop for one single moment in their evil plans to subvert the free world and especially its leader, The United States.

WHILE YOU SLEEP, THEY WORK. WHILE YOUR MEMORY FADES, THEY - PLAN. SOON, IT MAY BE TOO LATE.

-WRITE TO YOUR NEWSPAPER. ASK FOR A STRONGER POLICY A-GAINST CUBA AND THE COMMUNISTS.

-BE ALERT.BE AWAKE.IF YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY COOPERATE WITH THE CUBAN ORGANIZATIONS IN EXILE.COOPERATE WITH THE CUBAN MOVEMENT THAT REPRESENTS THE FREE PEOPLE OF CUBA.

HELP THE CUBANS BECAUSE WE ARE HELPING YOU.

OUR FREEDOM GUARANTEES YOUR FREEDOM.



Cubans commandos.Fighters for freedom.True defenders of the democratic Cuba and The United States.Will you forget them ?.

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