

Cuban Government Is Alarmed By Increase in Homosexuality

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HAVANA, April 15 — Homosexuality has become "an alarming political and social matter" in Cuba, a leading newspaper of Premier Fidel Castro's Government warned today.

In an article titled "Revolution and Vices," *El Mundo* of Havana said that sexual deviates were blatant in Cuban cities and had infiltrated intellectual and art life.

The article singled out the ballet and suggested it was better to disband some dance troupes than to tolerate them as known centers of immorality.

Homosexuals are conspicuous in some neighborhoods of Havana, particularly the part of 23d Street known as La Rampa (the ramp), leading from the waterfront to the Havana Libre Hotel, formerly the Havana Hilton. They also congregate in some numbers in parts of Santiago de Cuba.

On La Rampa effeminate young men parade in the afternoon and evening hours. Sexual perverts are also said to gather in some of the many night clubs that the Government's tourist department keeps going. The regime is reviewing what remains of Havana's once notoriously uninhibited night life, and reportedly is considering closing some night spots.

Art Academy Scandal

A homosexual scandal in the Havana Art Academy earlier this year led to a faculty reshuffle. A foreign leftist writer who visited Cuba some time ago was expelled on charges of homosexuality.

At an international theatrical congress in Havana last year a participant from Britain caused an uproar when he unsuccessfully proposed a motion to condemn "persecution" of homosexuals.

El Mundo described homosexuality as a legacy of capitalism. The newspaper quoted Premier Castro as having said that "the countryside does not produce

homosexuals" and that sexual deviation was a big-city phenomenon.

The article commented: "The virility of our peasantry does not permit that abominable vice. But in some of our cities it is rampant. There, homosexuals unite and form a clan."

The newspaper stressed that the Castro revolution would fight vice until it was banished from "our virile country, which is locked in a fight for life or death with Yankee imperialism."

The article declared that "no homosexual represents the revolution, which is a movement of he-men."

El Mundo said that the revolution would not persecute homosexuals but would break their "positions, procedures and influence" by applying "revolutionary social hygiene." This was understood as a warning that homosexuals would be rounded up and sent to labor camps.