

UPRISING TRIALS SET AT SANTIAGO

90 or More Charged with Attack on Garrisons

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HAVANA, Cuba, Aug. 22 (AP)—One of the greatest mass trials in Cuba's turbulent history is scheduled next month.

Ninety or more persons charged with an armed attack on two Army garrisons in Oriente province are to face trial in the hall of justice in Santiago de Cuba.

Dispatches reaching here through censorship from Santiago, 601 miles east of Havana, said the trial is to take place "in the first days of September."

The number of persons to go on trial before urgency court, a civil tribunal usually composed of three judges, will depend on the number under arrest at the time the trial gets under way.

In Cuba, trials usually are open to the public, but there have been cases where tribunals or police barred the public from court rooms on the claim there was no space, or held trials in prisons to which the public had no access.

Courtroom Small

The court room in Santiago has space for about two dozen spectators. It is the same room where Karen Nelson, an American girl once accused of the gunshot death of her husband, a wealthy cane planter, figured in an extraordinary case. The trial was memorable because it followed an accusation by a village gossip, and no evidence linking Mrs. Nelson with the crime was ever produced. She was acquitted.

Some 80 men, most of them members of the groups attacking the two garrisons—one in Santiago immediately behind the hall of justice, the other in the nearby city of Bayamo—died in uprisings. They brought suspension of constitutional guarantees — such as freedom of speech, of the press, and of assembly, and of speedy trial—as well as censorship.

There have been some indications the government of President Fulgencio Batista was planning to lift censorship on newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations, and on messages within Cuba and between Cuba and abroad. But it may not come until after September.