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Batista Smashes Armed Revolt

Batista Smiling, Confident, Blames Prio, Reds After Palace Attack

By EDWARD SCOTT
Editorial Writer—The Havana Post

President Fulgencio Batista in an interview with this reporter last night, following the unsuccessful but bloody attack on the Presidential Palace by revolutionaries, exuded confidence and stated that the government was in complete control of the situation. He blamed ex-President Carlos Prio for providing the arms for the rebellion and said that he had definite evidence that International Communism was heavily involved in the plot.

For a radius of one hundred yards around the Palace, there were broken pieces of masonry and dust. Most of the buildings in the vicinity, including the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore and the Hotel Park View had received numerous impacts from rifle and light and heavy machinegun fire.

My apartment in the Sevilla, on the corner of Treceadero and Zulueta, received several direct hits, one of which cut through my wardrobe, clothes and all, while a heavier bullet, probably from a 50 calibre machinegun, tore a foot-wide hole in the wall. Another bullet smashed through the book case.

The attackers shot their way in through the Colon Street entrance to the Palace where the door and

Associated Press Whips All Opposition; Scores "Beat" on Revolution

The Associated Press had a field day yesterday. Correspondents George Kaufman and Jose Arroyo Maldonado were ahead of all of the other news services by 20 minutes with news of the attack on the Presidential Palace and late in the afternoon received a message of warm congratulations from the Associated Press headquarters in New York City for a masterful "beat."

he replied with great enthusiasm. "They couldn't have been better. The officers and the soldiers alike were magnificent."

Since there is a great difference of opinion regarding the dead and wounded, I asked Batista for his estimate, which he gave as "about twenty killed of the rebels." Other sources set the dead at over forty.

In last night's interview, Batista was wearing a collared sports jacket with open necked shirt, a somewhat different attire from the leather jacket which made him famous when he wore it during the

time that he was expelling some rebellious army officers in 1941. There were light tanks on all corners of the Palace last night and a general indication of alertness showed that Batista was ready for all comers.

Soldier Fired, Scared Men Ran

By BILL BELL

The man jammed next to me in the doorway of a tourist shop screamed and grabbed his arm. He had been hit by a bullet.

The man who had fired the shot, a soldier in a rumpled uniform, shouted: "Run, run!" Then he fired again—point-blank into the 20 or 25 men huddled with me at the corner of Prado and Colon. We ran for our lives.

Another member of the POST staff and I had gone down to Prado to see it—at 4:45 p.m.—peace had been restored. It had not, we found with heart-stopping suddenness.

There were only 30 to 40 people on the Prado, almost all of them men. Traffic, except for two or three speeding private automobiles, was non-existent. An occasional shot rang out, sporadic fire sounded less than two blocks away. Across the street, these soldiers, nervous, heavily armed, stood ready. At Colon and Prado we joined the curious men.

A motorcycle roared up, gave an order to the soldiers and sped away. The three soldiers crossed the street. Then they fired.

As the first shot, we packed ourselves into the doorway of a closed beachcombers shop, with our backs to the street. But, with a suddenness, when the man next to me, a Cuban, was hit, the man next to me, I ran with the man next to me.

No Classes Today At Lafayette, Ruston, Cathedral

It was announced last night that there will be no classes today at the Lafayette, Ruston and Cathedral schools.

It is expected classes will be resumed tomorrow.

40 Killed, Many Wounded; American Tourist Slain

Havana late last night settled down to a nervous peace after a three-hour afternoon gun battle at the President's Palace.

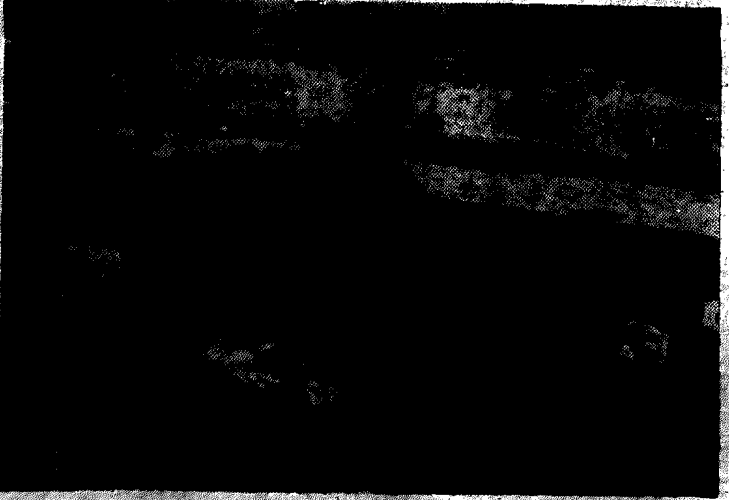
Official estimates of the dead were placed at just over 40—about 20 inside the Palace, and another



President Batista surrounded by Army chiefs who joined in the Palace defense yesterday. On Batista's right is Col. Francisco Taberna, head of the Army's Tank Division. Also above is Major Manuel Atencio, presidential aide.



Cuban Army riflemen stalk snipers who have taken up positions in Fine Arts Building facing Presidential Palace, during armed revolt in heart of Havana yesterday afternoon.



José Antonio Mochales, one of the killed leaders of yesterday's revolt, was president of the Students Federation (FEU) of the University of Havana.

Batista Thanks Military Men, Guard in Speech

The President said "thank you" last night to members of the Army, Navy and Police Guard for their defense against the attackers who stormed the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

With the Chief Executive when he made his emotional address were members of the Cabinet, members of the service, representatives of the press and high-ranking government officials.

President Batista, who was in the Palace when it was attacked, directly addressed with a pistol in one hand and a telephone in the other. He was in the third floor of the building, taking men of the "army" of his sons, who in 1933, the President, dressed in a gray jacket, gave orders from a phone and by aides to various parts of the Palace.

Referring to the day he was in "admission and honor," he said that after talks with the "army" and with the head of the Cuban police force and with various chiefs of the Investigation Bureau, he was asked:

"Why were the Palace doors open?"

The answer, President Batista said, was that the Palace is both a palace and a house of the people. No doors need be locked, he added.

"Anyone can enter the Palace day or night," he said.

The Chief Executive said that he was "first to be congratulated by the President were members of the Palace Guard and members of the 4th of September and 12th of March Regiments of the Infantry. They were praised for their quick response to the call for assistance."

The Navy, holding strategic positions near the Palace, were also thanked for their quick response.

President Batista pointed out that the attackers took advantage of the hour in their attack. They entered, he said, through the door always left open for the public.

The surprise attack, he said, was headed by "poor, army men whose miserable history was more from the people," and directed by Communists.

I ran with the men, fast, toward the corner of Neptune. When I rounded the corner I glanced back and saw a dead man lying across the street. It was the third I'd seen—the other two were also on the Presidential Palace side of the Prado.

As we dashed en masse around the corner of Prado and Neptune, I suddenly felt something at my right.

It was a young man with his hand in my front pocket, trying to take my change. I grabbed his wrist, but we kept running.

Later, when my breath was short, and I was walking toward the POST, my news colleague said one of the two bullets fired into the crowd chipped cement off a pillar two inches from his nose.

Indonesia Premier Toppled

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, Thursday, March 14 (AP).—Premier Ali Sastroamidjojo resigned today. His government was toppled by bloody revolts in east Indonesia and Sumatra.

President Sukarno immediately proclaimed a state of war and siege throughout the republic "because of the critical situation."

Community Chest Meet

The annual Community Chest Drive, which takes place this year in the week of April 1 - 6, will really begin to gather steam tomorrow, when the volunteer Captains of the various teams will meet at the Community House to map plans for the campaign. Team Captains who have been appointed to date by Drive Chairman G. K. ("Go"), Smith, are the following:

Team No.	Captain
1—Mrs. Patrick H. Cross	
2—Mrs. Edward Mc Gough	
3—Mrs. Cesare Diaz	
4—Mrs. Andres G. Carrillo	
5—Mr. Jesse G. Mitchell (Men's Team)	
6—Mrs. Thomas E. Silbert	
7—Mrs. Richard V. Colligan	
8—Mrs. George W. Coster	
9—Irving B. Price	
10—Mrs. William F. Oberhelser	
11—Mrs. Edward S. Landreth	
12—Mrs. Clinton G. Sweazey	
13—Mr. William G. Raines (Central Bershey)	
14—Mrs. Robert D. Mills (Isle of Pines)	

Police last night occupied the University of Havana and the University Hospital. They said they found arms and bombs in the hospital building.

Among the dead identified were Menelao Mora Morales, one of the rebel's strong supporters and a brother of House of Representatives member Dr. Candido Mora Moravia, president of the Students Federation of the University of Havana.

Shortly after the end of the abortive attempt to seize or kill President Batista, a virtual state of martial law was declared. But later, as the uneasy calm settled over Havana, it too was lifted.

The attack began at 3:27 when about 40 men began blasting the Palace from all sides. Attacks were reported at the same time against the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministries of Public Health, and Public Works.

The young revolutionaries, whom have been called pro-Communists by President Batista, shot down the outer Palace guard—killing a colonel, a sergeant and a private—as they stormed the palace from the south side facing Zayas park. They forced their way in through the south Palace door. When they reached the first floor, four ran westward and four to the east

the official family were also harmed.

Batista said his biggest concern was for his small son, who was napping in an upstairs bed. With the boy was the President's wife, Mrs. Martha Fernandez Miranda de Batista.

The Chief Executive, in an inner office, directed the palacial defense by telephone—with a .45 near at hand.

Early in the evening, estimates of the dead ran as high as 70 with "many" wounded. The figures were later revised down.

Within minutes after the initial assault, attackers were firmly entrenched in the Palace of Fine Arts building which overlooks the Palace across Alfredo Zayas Park.

Under heavy fire from pistol, machinegun, rifle, mortar and revolver, the Palace guard chief called for reinforcements from Army Camp Columbia and navy and police headquarters. An estimated 30 tanks, some of them armed with anti-aircraft guns, rushed to the Palace, located in the heart of the city.

Then for two hours the battle raged.

The first sign of the attack for most Cuban residents of the city came over radio station Reloj, which was crashed by Hechevarria and other student rebels. They held a gun at the head of an announcer, it reported, and forced him to read an announcement that Batista was dead and that the chief of the ar-

renda, was shot to death as he watched the fight from a fifth-floor balcony of the Hotel Regis at the corner of Prado and Colon Streets, two blocks from the Palace. A roommate and fellow New Jersey tourist, Ed. F. Butta, was wounded.

The attack came, the government said, at the soldiers' lunch and study hour.

But by 6 p.m. the government announced that attacking forces were beaten back and that calm prevailed over the nation.

Army, Navy and Police joined in a mopping-up operations, moving cautiously around the Palace and adjoining streets. Tanks were lined up in blocks in each direction from the Palace. Squads of men cleared the streets of citizens.

Stores and buildings in the area were pock-marked by bullets and windows were shattered.

Later, President Batista denied that Tabernilla had resigned from his post, and stated that all rumors of cabinet members resigning were also false.

Immediately after the attack was repulsed and the mopping-up was finished, patrols were sent throughout the city to maintain the peace and prevent any "spot" raids.

Identification was asked of almost all persons on the streets after 6 p.m. until dawn.

From Miami came word that all flights in and out of Havana had been cancelled because of the attack and fighting in the Cuban capital. At least 152 passengers were stranded in Miami.

A Cubana de Avionacion plane from New York to Havana was diverted to Miami when the Havana airport was closed. Cubana de Avionacion, a Cuban-owned airline, put the passengers up in a Miami hotel and said it hoped they could continue their journey today.

A National Airlines plane from New York to Havana also was stopped in Miami. Its 44 passengers were offered free hotel lodging in Miami or free transportation back to N. Y. National also said it hoped to continue air service today.

A Pan American World Airways shuttle plane from Miami landed in Havana shortly before the shooting and was unable to return to Miami. It was reported last night to still be at Rancho Boyeros Airport.

FAA said it hoped to resume flights at 8 a.m. today.

In Birmingham, Ala., a newsmen who last week was forced to leave Cuba said that the attack was "apparently carried out by a secondary force."

George Prentice, who was vacationing here a week ago and attempted to interview rebel leader Fidel Castro when he was arrested and later expelled, said that "the rebels have better arms than the ones they used in today's attack."

He added that he knows the rebels have airplanes.

He doesn't think, Prentice stated, that today's attack was directed by Castro, but by a splinter group of anti-Batista forces.



President Batista thanks the Palace defenders after the two-hour battle. Behind the President is Col. Orlando Piedra, Chief of the Bureau of Investigation.