Close Call For Batista

REBEL SUICIDE SQUAD WIPED OUT

Map Discovered Revealing Plan of Attack on Palace

By FRANCIS L. McCARTHY
United Press Staff Correspondent

A “suicide squad” of 21 men, none of whom emerged alive, carried out Wednesday’s storming of the Presidential Palace, the United Press learned today.

Two members of the revolutionary “shock troop” force had the specific assignment of breaking into President Batista’s second-floor private office and killing him.

A blood-stained plan of battle action was found on the body of the apparent leader of the suicide group, identified only as a former police lieutenant. The layout of the plan of attack was drawn in pencil on thick parchment paper. “Assignments” were noted in green ink.

According to the map, outside...
Tourists Caught in Revolt; American Shot To Death

One American tourist was killed, another wounded and hundreds were caught in the middle of the Cuban revolution yesterday that turned the area of the Presidential Palace and the Prado into a battle ground.

Peter Korenda was cut down with a bullet in the neck while watching the battle from the doorway of the Hotel Regis on the Prado. His friend, Edward Butts was slightly wounded. Korenda, who is believed to be from Clinton, New Jersey, died en route to a hospital after an ambulance was unable to break through the attack. Both Korenda and Butts are single and were here on vacation.

When the first shots were heard shortly before 3:30 yesterday afternoon, scores were strolling along the Prado, shopping for souvenirs in the immediate area and many were crossing Parque Zayas by the Presidential Palace.

WHEN FLIGHTS out of the country were cancelled tourists were caught in the middle. Some had already checked out of their hotels and were at the airport.

They all seemed eager to phone the States, but few lines were open during the shooting. Dozens of other tourists were hungry for news and fied past the United Press office in the Sevilla-Biltmore arcade to find out what was happening.

Police and soldiers were firing from the roof of the hotel. Occasionally, a policeman carrying a sub-machine gun would wander through the lobby and head for the elevator, causing much excitement.

After it appeared the firing had subsided, crowds of tourists surged toward the Prado entrance to get a better view. Then army tanks opened with a tremendous burst of fire and the crowd retreated. After the shooting ended, many tourists refused to wander out of the lobby, but a few adventurous souls explored the Prado, examining some of the damage inflicted.

SIX OR NINE o'clock the tourists had poured out on the Prado for a better look. Some pointed to a cement window sill shot away on the Palacio de Belisario. Others started to joke and laugh. Most of them agreed that they would have plenty to tell the folks back home.

Colony residents were of course also in the middle of much of the fighting and confusion. Some apartments across from the palace on Zulueta Street had holes in the doorways along the Prado. But for the most part the Prado shut up tighter than a drum. Generally, there was no panic among the tourists, but many of them were quite naturally frightened. The bar in the Sevilla did a brisk business and the cafeteria enjoyed a brisk sale of coffee.

One woman broke out in hysterics as she was lead from the hallway to the lobby. She apparently was walking along the Prado when the shooting broke out and was caught near a burst of gunfire. Two typical tourists were Miss Stefania Piazza of London and Mrs. Rose Schmel of Mt. Kisko, N.Y. They were strolling near the Parkview hotel when the firing started and they darted for cover. Finally they made their way back to the Sevilla-Biltmore.

Police were on thick parchment paper. "As far as we could tell, the rebels were in the immediate area and many were crossing Parque Zayas by the Presidential Palace."

Dulles Heads For States

CAMBERRA, Australia, March 14 (UP)—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles departed for the United States today after attending a conference of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

Dulles plans to rest one or two days in Honolulu before continuing on to Washington.

Before boarding his plane, Dulles paused at the monument erected by the Austro-American Society to pay tribute to the men of both nations who died in the war in the Pacific.

Ike Sails For Bermuda

WASHINGTON, March 14 (UP)—The United States will be without a President while President Eisenhower is on an eight day tour of Europe.

President Eisenhower is sailing today on board the cruiser "Camerica" for a short "vacation trip" in Bermuda, where he is scheduled to meet British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and Vice President Nixon is on tour in Africa.
Rebel Suicide Squad Wiped Out

(Continued from page 1)

leader of the “Orthodoxo” political party, was found – in the Country Club section of Havana – with five bullet holes in his chest.

The body of the former senator was found strewn out on a lawn on Avenida Largo Norte. Several documents and a bottle of wine were found in his pockets. No money or vallet was among them.

Death of the controversial, anti-Batista political leader followed by only a few hours the bloody attack on the Presidential Palace in downtown Havana which in which 36 persons were killed yesterday. The mid-afternoon attack came as a shock to President Carlos Pari

The attack started at approximately 3:25 p.m., when a red delivery truck with the sign “Past Deliveries,” painted on its side pulled up in front of the Colon Street entrance of the Presidential Palace. The driver pretended to have trouble with his motor and got out.

Suddenly he shouted: “Now.”

A group of attackers jumped from the truck and charged Palace porters armed with submachine guns, pistols and hand grenades. They ran shooting towards the palace entrance.

The attack caught the palace guard by surprise. Batista later said several members of the guard were at lunch or attending classes inside the palace at the time the attack started. A grenade tossed into the doorways near the palace entrance was cleared away for the attackers. One group penetrated into the palace defense; the other group forced its way into the palace. They made several diversions.

Killed in the palace attack were 20 members of the 100-man presidential guard, an unknown number of attackers and one American tourist, hit by a stray bullet at the entrance to a nearby hotel.

Four of the attackers were reported captured and five wounded. One was last sighted escaping. Police patrolled the deserted streets of downtown Havana well into the night looking for escapees.

A grenade among the dead in the palace was Capt Jose R. Puig of the palace guard and Dr. Menelio Moro Morales, former representative and past president of the COA fighting with the attackers.

A furious fight raged on the second floor of the palace. Batista directed operations from his office and made several personal sallies to interior sections of the palace. Eleven attackers were reported to have penetrated to one point almost to the door of his office.

were killed by the guard and driven back down the stairs.

Shortly after 3:30 p.m., a group of sailors sent from the Navy Department on Avenida del Puerto arrived in the vicinity of the palace but was held up by heavy fire from the attackers. A few minutes later, more sailors and troops advanced up Avenida de las Americas and attacked forces holed up in the Fine Arts Palace.

Gunfire was reported, meanwhile, from the Government buildings on Misiones and Pena Pobre Sts. and on Villegas Street. At approximately 3:45 p.m., Mrs. Batista and Mrs. Fernandez Miranda, head of the Sports Commission in charge of palace defense, is also said to have taken a direct part in directing the fight inside the palace.

Police, acting under orders, took over telephone calls, interrupting service in many instances. Flights from the Havana airport were barred by the Army General Staff.

Casualties were also ordered to the University of Havana where they found a large supply of machine guns, rifles and grenades. This action was ordered immediately after the attack broke out.

The attack on the studios of Radio Rebelde in Radicentro was limited to coincide with the attempt to seize the palace and kill Batista. Approximately 10 men, uniformed and in automobiles, took the elevator to the radio station. There they opened fire when they saw police and their guns while one of them handed a note to be read on the air.

The note was to the effect that an uprising had occurred at Camp Columbia and that Batista had been killed.

The man in charge of the station cabled the following message:

When he saw the armed men he immediately shut the station off.

THE TIMES OF HAVANA

Thursday, March 14, 1957

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Flower Expert

Gives Hints

MADISON, Wis. — (AP) — A University of Wisconsin flower expert gives hints on growing dwarf lilies. The plants take little care and space isn’t expensive, he said. Each plant produces a flower in three weeks.

Floriculturist Carl Beck said he experimented with the plants and obtained blue cowslip, rose and scarlet petal that remained at attractive for three weeks.

The plants take little care of space and seed isn’t expensive, Beck said. Each plant produces a flower in three weeks.

Legend says that Dah Shum (Damascus), the capital of Syria, was founded by Noah’s grandson a few years after the great flood. Dah Sham is reputed to be oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.
Legend says that Esh Sham (Damascus), the capital of Syria, was founded by Noah’s grandson a few years after the great flood. Esh Sham is reputed to be the oldest continuously inhabited city, the National Geographic Society says.

The plants take little care or space and seed isn’t expensive, Beck said. Each plant produces about 15 flowers, each over two inches across at the top. Obtained blue crimson, rose and scarlet petals that remained attractive for three weeks.

The attacking group composed largely of university students loyal to former President Carlos Prio Socarras, ousted by Batista in a bloodless coup March 10, 1953 and now living in exile in Miami, Florida.

The attacking group was reported to have penetrated at one point almost to the door of his office. One bullet penetrated the door of Batista’s office. The attackers directed operations from his office and made several personal sallies to interior sections of the palace. Eleven attackers were reported to have penetrated at one point almost to the door of his office.

One of the invaders broadcast over the dead microphone that a provisional government headed by ESG leader Jose A. Echevarria had taken over. When they realized the station was off the air, the invaders left.

Outside, on 23rd street, the armed group was leaving in their own cars when it ran into a police radio car. Shooting started: A pursuit ensued. At the corner of “L” and 27th, Echevarria got out of his car, machine-gun in hand, and was immediately cut down by police bullets.

Armored reconnaissance cars, meanwhile, had been rushed in from outlying points and took up stations on all four corners of the palace. Machine-gun, rifle and pistol fire continued until well after 4 p.m.

At 3:55 p.m. a group of attackers were still under heavy fire in the Fine Arts Palace. Scattered firing was heard in many other parts of the city. Wounded were evacuated from around the palace to nearby hospitals.

At approximately 5:20 p.m. order was almost completely restored around the palace and along the Prado.

In a meeting with the press shortly before midnight, President Batista said that the attackers were “poor mad fools paid by people who boasted the national tragedy, carrying out directives of the Communist Party.”

In a previous appearance before members of the palace guard, the President expressed his gratitude for their courage and loyalty and added:

“My life does not matter. What matters is that the nation does not become embroiled in the chaos.”

At the height of the attack on the palace, fire was reported coming from many surrounding buildings, among them the Sevilla Biltmore Hotel.

Also occupied in mid-afternoon by police was the Calixto Garcia Hospital where large quantities of fire arms were also found.