
"Battle of Prado"
For additional pictures
of the fighting that broke
out along the Prado and in
the general area of the
Presidential Palace, turn
to Pages three and four.



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Close Call For Batista

REBEL SUICIDE SQUAD WIPED OUT



**Map Discovered
Revealing Plan of
Attack on Palace**

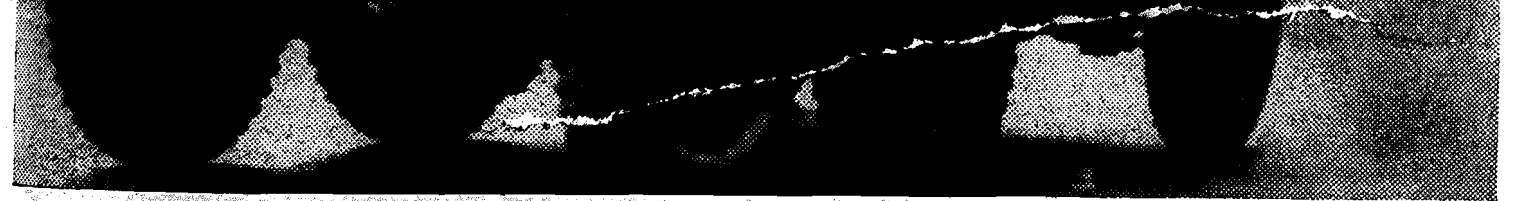
By FRANCIS L. McCARTHY
United Press Staff Correspondent

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



ARMY TANK MOVES DOWN STREET to quell outbreak of violence after rebels had attacked the Presidential Palace. Late last night President Batista reported "the state of full public order is normal." (United Press).

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 Austroamerican 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 or a Vicepresident in American territory during a few days.

President Eisenhower is sailing today on board the cruiser "Camberra" 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.

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.

MOST OF THEM made a hurried dash for cover toward the Hotel Sevilla-Biltmore, which was a center of activity during the shooting. The hotel bore evidence of the fray — pockmarked walls, rooms peppered with slugs in the old section of the hotel.

Scores of tourists milled around in the lobby. A few daring ones preferred grandstand seats from

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 rushing 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 Stefonia Yanac of Scranton, Pa., and Mrs. Rose Schimmel of Mt. Kisco, N.Y. They were strolling near the Park-view hotel when the firing started and they darted for cover. Finally they made their way back to the Sevilla-Biltmore.

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 filed 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. Occa-

sionally, a policeman carrying a submachine 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 ending, many tourists refused to wander out of the lobby, but a few adventurous souls explored the Prado, examining some of the damage inflicted.

BY EIGHT 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 Bellas Artes, others started to joke and laugh. Most of them agreed that they would have plenty to tell the folks about 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 ceiling, slugs in the living room and broken glass. Several members of the ABC colony live in that area.

Scores of others were caught in the traffic jam. And many who were in their offices at the time had a ringside seat.

According to the map, outside covering fire for those who stormed the palace, all of whom "completed" their mission, was to be furnished from the street (Calle Colón) directly outside the palace by the remainder of the rebel group, some nine or ten men, under personal command of Menelao Mora, identified as the commander of the task force.

The task assigned four men to cover the Colon street entry gate into the palace and four others to cover the ground floor spiral stairway to upper floors.

Two men were assigned to cover the entry gate into the patio of the palace, also on the ground floor. Two others were assigned to guard the door of the palace press room, to "immobilize" newsmen.

Four men were assigned to seize and hold President Batista's private elevator. Two had the job of guarding the front door to the "officer's lounge" for garrison personnel.

Two men were to get to the second floor as quickly as possible, break down and enter the President's private office and kill him. A third man was assigned to cover their rear.

According to the detailed instructions, the men in pairs covering various doorways within the palace were to take opposite sides and keep up a more or less constant cross-fire from their automatic weapons.

All 21 men of the "suicide squad" apparently penetrated the palace. None of them left it alive.

Police continued to round up members of opposition groups today for questioning in the bloody attack on the Presidential Palace yesterday in which 36 are known dead and 25 wounded.

Scores of people were held for interrogation. All approaches to the palace were still blocked off today by tanks and troops. The city, however, remained calm.

In the aftermath of the mid-afternoon assault, it was revealed today that the 30-odd attackers

Rebel Suicide Squad Wiped Out

(Continued from page 1)

gained entry to the palace by machinegunning the short-handed and surprised guard at the Colon St. entrance.

Inside the palace the attackers split into two groups. One group penetrated into the central patio in search of the private stairway to Batista's second-floor office. The other group shot its way up the main stairway.

Palace guards rushing to the stairways from the left wing shot down seven attackers. Four of them made their way to the anti-

chamber of Batista's office, however, and tossed in a grenade. In their rush they failed to pull the pin. The grenade bounced on the marble floor and did not explode.

Presidential Aide Serafino Menduina and other guards repulsed the attackers in the antichamber with pistols.

The second group reached the second floor by the back stairway at the same time. Elements of both groups held out there for over an hour.

The body of Dr. Pelayo Cuervo Navarro, former legislator and

leader of the "Ortodoxo" political party, was found in the Country Club section of Havana early today five bullet holes in his chest.

The body of the former senator was found stretched out on a lawn on Avenida Lago Norte. Several documents and a bottle of medicine were found in his pockets. No money or wallet 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 in which 36 persons were killed yesterday.

The mid-afternoon attack came as President Batista was eating lunch on the third floor of the palace with members of his cabinet. The President took immediate charge of the palace defense.

In the ensuing two-hour fight inside the palace, the youthful attackers penetrated as far as the second floor and almost reached the door to the office in which Batista was directing operations.

Shooting meanwhile spread to nearby buildings and roof tops before armored cars and truck loads of soldiers and sailors were rushed into the area surrounding the palace.

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 were seen escaping. Police patrolled the deserted streets of downtown Havana well into the night looking for escapees.

Included among the dead in the palace were Capt. Jose R. Fuig of the palace guard and Dr. Menelao Mora Morales, former representative and past president of the COA fighting with the attackers.

The attacking group was composed largely of university students loyal to former President Carlos Prío Socarras, ousted by Batista in a bloodless coup March 10, 1957

There was no indication that Fidel Castro, another revolutionary leader hiding out in the Sierra Maestra mountains of Oriente Province, was involved in the attack.

Also dead in the day's event was Juan Antonio Echevarría, president of the Federación Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU) who was killed by police fleeing from Radiocentro in Vedado after forcing announcers at Radio Centro to broadcast the false information that Batista had been assassinated.

The attack started at approximately 3:25 p. m. when a red delivery truck with the sign "Fast Delivery, S. A." 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 back of the truck and three nearby automobiles carrying 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.

A grenade tossed into the doorway cleared the way for the attackers. One group penetrated into the patio of the palace while the second group forced its way up the stairs to the second floor.

Gunfire had broken out, meanwhile, from the roof of the Fine Arts Palace. Two city buses, running down Colon Street, were caught in the fire. One made a run for it with shattered windows and a smoking motor. The driver was injured.

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 at 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 in trucks advanced up Avenida de las Misiones and attacked forces holed up in the Fine Arts Palace.

Gunfire was reported, meanwhile, from the tops of buildings on Misiones and Pena Pobre Sts. and on Villegas Street.

At approximately 3:45 p. m., Mrs. Batista and Mrs. Fernandez Miranda, in the palace at the time the attack started, were reported safely evacuated.

Col. Roberto Fernandez Miranda, head of the Sports Commission and in charge of palace defense, is also said to have taken a large part in directing the fight inside the palace.

Police, acting under orders, took over the Cuban Telephone Co., interrupting service in many instances. Flights from Rancho Boyeros Airport were barred by the Army General Staff.

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

The attack on the studios of Radio Reloj in Radiocentro was timed to coincide with the attempt to seize the palace and kill Batista.

Approximately 10 men, submachine-guns in hand, drove up in automobiles and took the elevator to the radio station. There they covered the employes with 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 controls came out to investigate. When he saw the armed men he immediately shut the station off

Claims Subversive Groups Exploiting Marine Trials

PARRIS ISLANDS, S.C. — (UP) — The commander of this huge Marine training base charged during the weekend that "subversive elements" are exploiting court martial trials of drill instructors accused of abusing recruits.

In a 13th such case since the publicized "death march" in which six recruits died last April a special court martial Saturday sentenced Cpl. William R. Walsha of Lyndhurst, N. J., to three months at hard labor for laying hands on three recruits.

Brig. Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., commander of the training base, said in a statement that "subversive elements are using publicity concerning maltreatment cases to further their own cause."

Capt. J. W. Mahoney, public information officer who released the statement, said Greene was "cognizant" of the fact that the "death march" attracted press publicity

to the other cases which followed.

"However, Mahoney said, "the general believes that the subversive elements have exploited the trials both here and at San Diego (Calif.) in an attempt to undermine confidence in the corps."

Mahoney said Greene had forwarded "a detailed study of this subject" to a Marine headquarters in Washington, "in view of the present Senate hearings on this matter."

Flower Expert Gives Hints

MADISON, Wis. — (UP) — A University of Wisconsin flower expert reports that the potted dwarf aster can be profitably grown by commercial florists.

Floriculturist Gail Beck said he experimented with the plants and obtained blue crimson, rose and scarlet petals that remained attractive for three weeks.

The plants take little care or space and seed isn't expensive, Beck said. Each plant produces

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lighting with the attackers. The attacking group was composed largely of university students loyal to former President Carlos Prío Socarras, ousted by Batista in a bloodless coup March 10, 1952 and now living in exile in Miami, Florida.

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 bullet penetrated the door of Batista's office. The attackers

an uprising had occurred at Camp Columbia and that Batista had been killed.

The man in charge of the station controls came out to investigate. When he saw the armed men he immediately shut the station off the air.

One of the invaders broadcast over the dead mike that a provisional government headed by FEU 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 several 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 looted the national treasury, 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.



HEAVILY ARMED POLICE scout the streets of downtown Havana for hidden snipers after yesterday's surprise assault on the Presidential Palace. (United Press).