

Landing Reports Denied; Special Mass Prohibited

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Cuban military men in Oriente today denied insistent reports in Havana that new rebel landings have been made along the southern coast of that province, or that there has been any resumption of large-scale fighting in that strife-torn area.

The official denial coincided with action taken by police in Havana prohibiting the holding of a mass dedicated to the civilian and military dead of last Wednesday's suicide raid on the Presidential Palace. The mass, at San Antonio de Padua Church, had been planned by around a hundred women affiliated with social, political and religious organizations.

President Batista, meanwhile, told visiting American newspapermen that he was the author of the plan for defending the palace which, he said, precluded the success of any attack such as that of last Wednesday. The President, however, did not make any reference to the fact that all members of the 21-man "suicide squad" assigned to the task of entering the palace achieved their purpose and, indeed, reached the front door of his private dispatch on the second floor.

The attacking squad failed their principal assignment, that of assassinating the President who was on the third floor of the palace defending his family in their apartment.

The army denial of new landings in Oriente came directly from the provincial commander, Major General Martín Díaz Tamayo, in a telephone interview with United Press. He said his headquarters in Santiago had "absolutely no such report." The rumors circulating in Havana had the new rebel reinforcements led by José Alemán, Jr., son of the late minister of education in the cabinet of ex-President Carlos Prío Socarrás. Alemán, Jr., is a millionaire real estate owner in Florida and also owns the Miami Baseball Stadium.

Díaz Tamayo also denied Havana rumors of an attack by remnants of Fidel Castro's Sierra Maestra expeditionary force on El Macío, the army's advance command post in the area. "Absolute quiet" reigns in all areas under his command, the general said.

In Havana, police blocking off efforts of Cuban women to hold a requiem mass for the souls of the dead in Miramar, charged they had planned a street "peace" demonstration to follow the church ceremony. The women, however, claimed they intended to hold a "religious ceremony of mercy, not a political rally."

Although asked by police to leave the church the women recited the Rosary aloud for over half an hour before leaving the edifice. The Franciscan brothers of the Church refused any comment.

One Havana newspaper, *Diario Nacional*, described the police ban on the mercy mass as "without precedent in the republican history of Cuba."

It was a busy week-end for President Batista. The chief executive granted over half a dozen "exclusive interviews" to visiting American journalists representing the three major U. S. networks, CBS, NBC and ABC, several Miami TV stations and news agencies.

The President told them generally that the government had advance warning of the attack and this, he said, enabled him to lay advance plan for defense of the palace. He said he had rejected an army suggestion that he move to Camp Columbia during the danger period because he felt he could best direct the defense of the palace from within the executive mansion itself.

He did not refer to the fact that his wife, Martha, and their sick child, Fulgencio, Jr., also remained at the Palace.

Batista also visited military wounded during the week-end.

Cuban army and navy patrols are on 24-hour watch over the long expanse of Cuban coastline. Incessant air and sea search is being carried out, official sources said.

There was also a report in the government newspaper "*Tiempo*" to the effect that a new wave of revolutionary activity may be expected, tied in with new landings from abroad, in possibly Pinar del Río, Matanzas and Oriente provinces.

Tiempo, which is published by Senator Rolando Masferrer, chairman of the senate's armed forces committee, said Wednesday's attack on the Palace had been intended to tie in with such new revolutionary activity but claimed that it had been "advanced" by at least 48 hours for some unexplained reason, thus throwing the revolutionary time-table off.

Tiempo said that it was known that an 80-man rebel force is in Mexico waiting to push off for Cuba and hinted that at least one other expedition, probably based in Costa Rica, is also alerted. It

said that Eufemio Fernández, former secret police chief, and Aureliano Sánchez Arango, former prime minister, were among leaders of the reinforcing groups.

Police and military intelligence agents meanwhile continued their house searches and preventive detentions in Havana and its suburbs. It was estimated that several hundred members of the political opposition have been rounded up for questioning many of whom have been released after questioning.

An opposition party leader, Millo Ochoa, however, took a fast plane for Miami "because my life is in danger." Ochoa, president of the Cuban People's (Orthodox-registered) party said police had been looking for him since last Wednesday's palace attack, and that party headquarters had been broken into. However, his departure for Miami from Rancho Boyeros airport was not in any way blocked.

A close friend of Ochoa's, ex-Senator Pelayo Cuervo Navarro, was murdered last Thursday morning. Cuervo Navarro, veteran political figure, was president of the non-registered branch of the Orthodox opposition party.

Spokesmen for organized students in eight high schools in Havana and its suburbs told United Press they would not attend classes all this week out of respect for the memory of José A. Hechevarría, president of the University Students Federation up to the time of his death last Wednesday.

Hechevarría was shot to death in a gun duel with police after leading a rebel raiding party into the Vedado studios of Radio Rebel to broadcast a revolutionary "manifesto".

The school whose student bodies have decreed a "Week of Student Grief" are the Vedado, Havana, Vibora and Mariano institutes, Artes y Oficios, Normal de La Habana, Comercio de La Habana and Comercio de Mariano.

Havana-Cojimar Bus-Route Sought

The board of directors of the *Asociación Residencial Loma de Cojimar* agreed this week to request direct bus service between Havana and Cojimar along route 71. Havana-Cojimar bus service has already been authorized.

Decision to request the service was taken after it was learned that the Hershey trolley-train service between Casablanca and Cojimar will be discontinued in the near future. The Hershey route has been operation for years.

Improved bus service to Guanabacoa and Regla will also be requested.

2 Tremors 3 Oriente

Shifts in the earth's crust between Jamaica and eastern Cuba were believed responsible for two large tremors which shook three cities in Oriente Province on Saturday.

The quakes spread near panic through Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and Palma Soriano. The tremors occurred at 7:45 and 7:50 a.m., only five minutes apart.

In Guantánamo hundreds of people ran from their homes in fear that the buildings were going to collapse. Near panic prevailed in Santiago and Palma Soriano.

Scientists were not able to predict immediately whether the tremors will continue. They point-