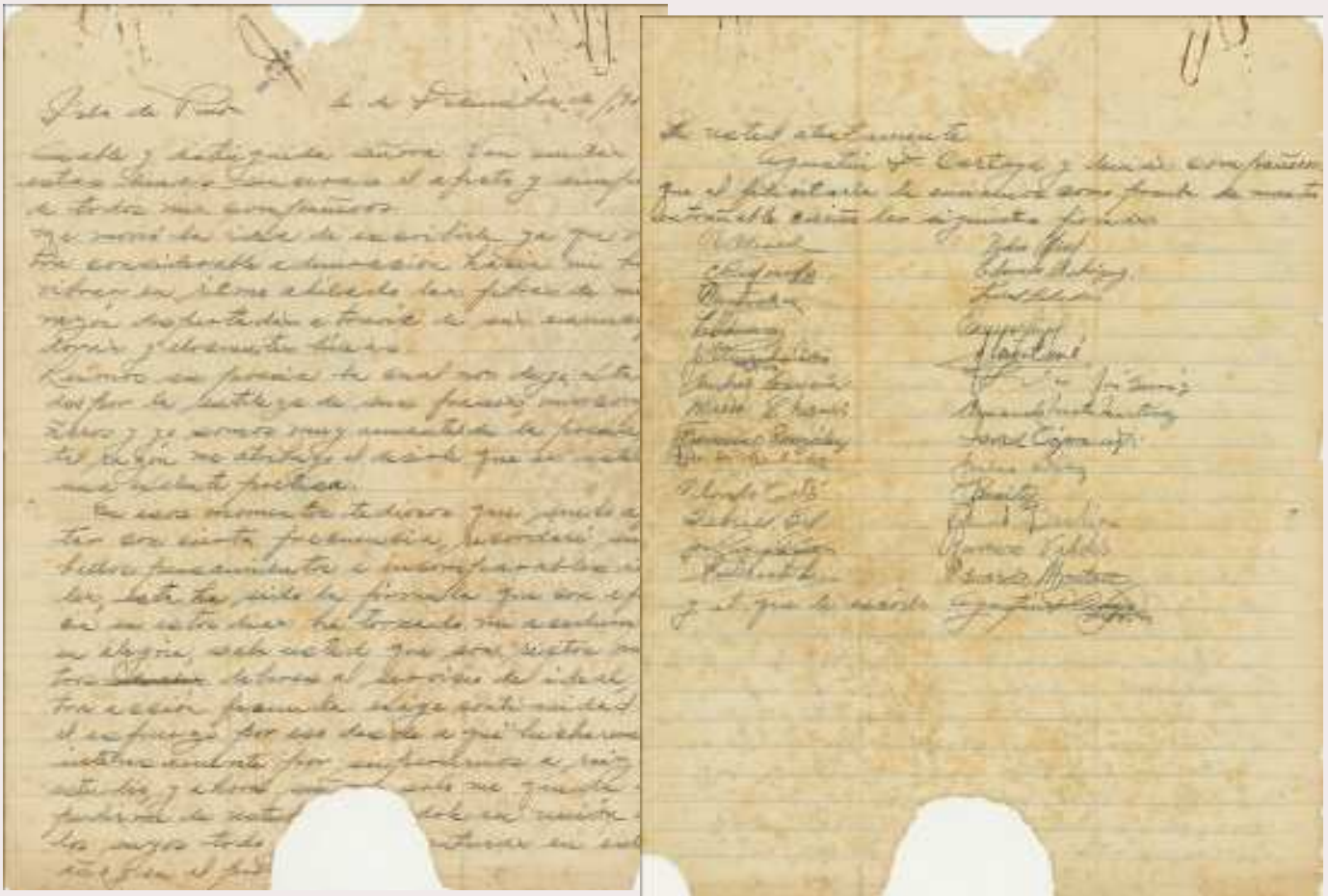


Revolucion! Not long after delivering his famous History Will Absolve Me speech, Fidel Castro and his fellow Moncada Prisoners sign a letter of appreciation to a champion of their cause: "Our formula of action demands continuity of our efforts that is why from here we will fight continually."



192. Fidel Castro. Manuscript in Spanish, written in the hand of fellow Moncada prisoner Agustin Cartaya, one lined page, both sides, dated December 6, 1953, written while on the Isle of Puesto. Manuscript reads, in full: *"Kind and distinguished lady: Together with these sincere lines are attached the affection and respect from all my partners. I was motivated with the idea of writing you because of your admiration towards myself that made the fibers of my heart vibrate with an accelerated rate that was motivated by your eloquent lines. We read your poem and it left us all inspired by the kindness of your phrases, my partners and I, are very lovers of the poetry, that is why I take the opportunity to tell you that you are an excellent poetry writer. In those difficult moments that I used to have with frequency I will remember your beautiful thoughts and incomparable ideals, this has been the formula that with effectiveness have changed during these days my sadness towards happiness. You know that our tasks are firm to serve the ideals, our formula of action demands continuity of our efforts that is why from here we will fight continually for our improving starting with the education and now lady I only have to say good bye wishing you together with all your family all...in this year and in the next. Signed at the conclusion, "Alcalde, Redondo, R. Castro, E. Camara, Juan Almeida, Andres Garcia, Mario Chanes, Francisco Gonzalez, Rosendo Menendes, Orlando Cortes, Gabriel Gil, Jose Ponce, Fidel Castro, Pedro Miret, Eduardo Rodriguez, Fidel Labrador, Ernest Tizol, Jesus Montane, Jose Suarez, Armando Mestro Martinez, Israel Tapanes, Julio Diaz, Benitez, Rene Bedia, Ramiro Valdes, Eduardo Montano and who subscribes Agustin D. Cartaya."* On July 26, 1953, at 5:00AM, Fidel Castro and his brother Raúl led a group of approximately 160 rebels in an attack on the second largest military garrison in Cuba, headquarters of the 1,000 (others say about 400) strong Antonio Maceo regiment, under the command of President Fulgencio Batista. When it was finally carried out, the attack on the Moncada Barracks was a total disaster. Sixty-one rebels were killed in the fighting, and one third of them were captured. Half of the men captured were tortured to death. A handful of rebels, including Fidel Castro, escaped into the nearby countryside but were apprehended shortly thereafter. Castro, a lawyer, defended himself at his trial. His defense speech, *"History Will Absolve Me"* was written down by a court reporter. It became the platform of the 26th of July Movement, detailing plans for reform in Cuba, and was later frequently used in Castro's speeches. Castro was sentenced to death; however, at the urging of Roman Catholic priests, Batista abolished the death penalty just before Castro's execution, and he was sentenced instead to fifteen years in prison on the Isle of Pines. In very good condition, with paper loss to top and bottom edge, affecting several words of text at bottom, scattered toning, previous storage folds and rusty paperclip marks to top edge. COA John Reznikoff/PSA/DNA and R&R COA included.(MB \$900)