

to Martí as leader of the Cuban revolutionary movement. Martí and a young New York lawyer, Horatio Rubens, succeeded in proving that the import of labour was against the U.S. Contract Labour Act of 1885. The strikers thus won a complete victory.³⁶ After this success, more Cuban revolutionary clubs proliferated while socialist and anarchist clubs continued active and, in conjunction with them, among the tobacco workers of Florida: thus one club named after the great Spanish anarchist Fermín Salvóchea was founded, with Carlos Baliño its president.³⁷

With these successes to his credit, Martí originally desired to name February 1894 as the date for the next and, as he hoped, final rising in Cuba against Spain. But those planters (particularly in Puerto Príncipe) who were on the side of rebellion were anxious to finish the harvest, and once again economic or commercial motives delayed a Cuban rebellion. Puerto Príncipe was an essential province, and Martí and Máximo Gómez (in New York from April 1894) therefore waited, but this postponement confirmed both in their belief that they could not once again wait for the rich. On 30 September 1894, Gómez wrote to Maceo, then in Costa Rica recovering from a wound, allegedly inflicted by Spanish would-be assassins, but otherwise in the same superb physical state as in the 1870s, 'After November 15 we must be prepared to move immediately.'

During late 1894 Martí, impoverished, often ill, probably suffering from tuberculosis, 'laboured as one inspired . . . The organization of the conspiracy in Cuba was crystallizing . . . Cigar workers responded nobly . . . At the end of October Martí let it be known he would have \$5,000 more.'³⁸ Working with the recollection of innumerable past mistakes, from Narciso López onwards, it was agreed that no rising would begin until at least four provinces (out of the six) were reliably reported ready for revolution and one province as well as Oriente was ready for the reception of rebel officers. Three expeditions were meantime gathered together in the Florida port of Fernandina, near Jacksonville. But thanks to the carelessness or treachery of their field commander, Colonel López Queralta, the U.S. authorities caught the whole group on 14 January 1895. This was a bad blow. In fact it also served as a stimulus. Before, no one had thought that Martí could assemble such a large force and in secret. Those who had believed Martí to be a poet and a dreamer were more impressed by 'the imaginative promise of his plan than by its temporary frustration'.³⁹

Two weeks later, on 29 January, Martí, with a representative from

³⁶ Rubens, *Liberty*, 15-16.

³⁷ *Documentos de Carlos Baliño*, 13.

³⁸ Rubens, *Liberty*, 72-3.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 74.