

Cuban Terrorism More Intense Despite Moves to Suppress It

Widening Campaign by Foes of the Batista Regime Is Causing Grave Concern

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Special to The New York Times.

HAVANA, Dec. 28—The terrorist campaign being waged throughout Cuba by enemies of the regime of President Fulgencio Batista is causing grave concern among the people.

The military authorities have been forced to adopt more forceful suppression tactics during the past few days as the terrorist campaign increased in intensity. The terrorism began in Oriente Province following an unsuccessful rebellion there early this month and has spread to other parts of the island.

Bomb explosions, incendiary fires, sabotaging of waterworks, public transportation, light and communication systems occur daily. Hundreds of suspects have been arrested and jailed in every province as the authorities have attempted to stamp out the terrorism.

Constitutional guarantees are suspended in Oriente, Camaguey, Las Villas and Pinar del Rio Provinces and armed forces control public order. Soldiers patrol city streets, highways and country roads.

In Havana and Matanzas Provinces, which are not affected by the suspension of guarantees, special precautions have been taken by the authorities. The police, armed with rifles and machine-guns, guard stations and public buildings.

Uneasiness Mounts

At the same time the coasts of the island are being constantly patrolled by planes of the armed forces and naval craft to prevent any further landing of insurgents.

Bomb explosions in Havana, fires started by bottles of flaming gasoline known as Molotov cocktails and the killing of a sergeant on patrol duty have created uneasiness during the last week.

The finding of the bodies of twenty-one political oppositionists during the last forty-eight hours on the roads and streets of the towns around Holguin, Oriente Province, has contributed to the mounting tension. Nineteen of the victims had been shot. The bodies of two others were found hanging to trees.

No explanation has been offered by the Government concerning these outrages. The Havana morning newspaper *El Crisol* strongly criticized the enemies of the Government for the terroristic campaign and at the same time termed the killings "brutal and insane repression that ignores superior orders and yaws of the country."

Meanwhile the fate of Fidel Castro, former university student leader who headed the revolutionary expedition of eighty-



The New York Times

President Fulgencio Batista

two men that landed on the south coast of Oriente Province Dec. 2 still remains unclarified. Reports from Holguin say he and forty followers are hiding in the Sierra Maestra.

The rebellious outbreak, in contrast to former revolutions in Cuba that occurred in depression days, comes at a time when the island is preparing to grind the largest sugar crop in several years and during a period of relative prosperity.

It can well be called a "youth rebellion" since it is being carried out by youths aged from 17 years to the late "twenties." The insurgents and terrorists include students, delinquent youths and so-called gangsters, idealistic sons of good families, young workers and those dissatisfied with political conditions.

Communist Link Charged

Government officials assert that members of the outlawed Communist party are involved in the terrorism. At the same time even the Government seems to be convinced that leaders of the opposition political parties here have no direct connection with the insurgents.

The Government has long accused former President Carlos Prío Socarras, who was deposed by President Batista in March, 1952, by a military coup, of heading conspiracies against Cuba being hatched abroad.

They have also linked Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, strongman of the Dominican Republic, with the exiled Cuban revolutionists, declaring that he is furnishing them with arms and ammunition. The result has been that relations between the two countries are strained almost to the breaking point.

The stability of the Batista Government remains unshaken by the violence that is sweeping the island. President Batista has the solid backing of commerce, industry and capital and a large part of the working classes.