

# Bolivian President Escapes Assassination; Mob Kills Assailant, Hangs 2 Ex-Officials

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BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 27—The people of Bolivia last July killed and then hanged their dictator, Gen. Gualberto Villarroel, in irate protest against his tyranny. Today a mob meted out the same fate in La Paz to a would-be assassin of the head of the revolutionary junta as a warning against military counter-revolutionists.

In today's dramatic story, Tomás Monje Gutiérrez, President of the revolutionary junta, faced down while unarmed a former Army lieutenant, Luis Oblitas Bustamente, who was flourishing a .38-caliber revolver. The assassin was seized and arrested after a fight with the President's entourage. He was next wrested from the police by an infuriated mob and killed and hanged to the same lamp post from which, only recently, insurgents had hanged the late dictator.

The former Lieutenant Oblitas, member of the once ruling military Santa Cruz Lodge, was angry because he had been forced out of the Army by the new Government. He went to the Presidential palace shortly before noon today, ostensibly to seek an audience with the President, who at the moment was chatting with Walter Lison, his secretary, his son Jacinto and a girl employee.

After having broken open the door of the secretary's office, he entered, flourishing his revolver, and shouted: "Here is the only Bolivian, and I'll be President of the Republic."

Immediately, he fired at Señor Lison, the shot going wild. The President stepped forward and Oblitas shouted: "I'm going to be

President," and pointed his revolver.

Dr. Monje Gutiérrez said: "Shoot."

This took the lieutenant aback. He lowered his revolver, then pointed it again. The President, unbuttoning his coat and, baring his chest, said: "Shoot, then. I will not abandon the Presidency."

As the lieutenant hesitated momentarily a second time, the officials standing about leaped upon him. He struck an employe, Mario Pinedo, over the head with his revolver butt. Nevertheless, others overpowered him. The police sought to take the would-be killer across the square to the central police station.

By this time many persons had gathered in Plaza Murillo, in front of the palace. Then the police appeared with the prisoner. There was a brief struggle, in which Oblitas was stabbed repeatedly and shots fired into him. He fell dead, almost where Dictator Villarroel earlier had fallen.

The crowd took the body to the same lamp-post where General Villarroel had been hanged and hoisted the lieutenant's body on it.

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Sept. 27 (U.P.)—After the crowd had killed and hanged Lieutenant Oblitas in Murillo Square, members of the mob surged to the jail, where former members of the Villarroel Government were held. They seized Maj. Jorge Eguino, former director general of police, and Maj. José Escobar, former police chief, and dragged them through the street to the square where they were hanged alongside Lieutenant Oblitas.