

THE PLAZA in REVOLUTION



THE PLAZA

in REVOLUTION



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THE PLAZA in REVOLUTION



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 On October 10, 1868, independence was proclaimed and slaves from La Demajagua sugar mill were set free by Carlos Manuel de Céspedes's own choice. He, the Father of Homeland, established the capital of Cuba Libre in San Salvador de Bayamo, where the first government, with popular participation, was constituted. Bayamo was the place where the vibrant tunes of the National Anthem were heard, and dreams and hopes of the whole people mixed.

The Cuban insurgents determined, however, to burn the city before it fell in the hands of the enemy. In the letter to the Captain General of the Island, the Chief of Operation of the Spanish Army, Count of Balmaceda, made a dramatic description of access to the deserted villa, making all kinds of speculations concerning its settlers when found no one around. The testimony accounts how they went through lonely streets, amongst crags and dense smoke, to stop at the formerly Arms Plaza and to find a poster that read: "REVOLUTION PLAZA," fixed in a visible place.

Ancient peoples took as theirs the concept of Plaza as notion of a place for cult and ceremonies. Amongst the endless examples to be mentioned to establish this concept are the Mesopotamian civilizations, the Pharaonic Egypt, the imperial China or the pre-Columbian Americas... While Rome would inherit the purposes and consecrated forms for forum from the Athenian Greece.

During the American colonization, the square of the city was sacred. The continental planimetry structured around an arms plaza, generally in terms of minor and too little plazas. Thus, in South America, town councils overtly proclaimed the independence of the colonial rule: Caracas, Santiago de Chile, Quito...just to mention some. In Santiago de Cuba, over the sepulchre inscription of the Conqueror Diego Velázquez de Cuellar, another inscription was sculptured in honor to the liberal Constitution of Cadiz, promulgated on March 19, 1812.

In the European-Asian part of the world, the Moscow Red Plaza, which was built in area exempted of buildings after the Great Fire of July 28, 1493, cannot be forgotten. The name of "Red" comes from bricks of the neighboring constructions. The Red Plaza expands next to the eastern wall of Kremlin, and majestic buildings such as San Basilio Basilica, the Kremlin Church of Assumption, the Lenin Mausoleum, and the Museum of History surround it. The Red Plaza was the scenario of glorious events of contemporary times, and it has continued being the chosen place for visitors from all over the world.

One of the most memorable developments of the 18th century happened in Paris in 1789 when, after the taking of the Bastille, the people in arms ran across The Tuileries Garden. The great decrees of the French Revolution were to be proclaimed in this new ambience; in days of shock and uncertainty, the guillotine was also erected there. At present, this is the Concorde Plaza.

I had the chance to attend the simple ceremony held at the Presidential Palace, July 17, 1961. The municipal representative, José A. Naranjo Morales, guided by the outcry of citizens and with the force of Resolution No. 151, disposed that, from that moment, the Civic Plaza was going to be named REVOLUTION PLAZA. Thus, the cycle initiated by the patriotic insurgents at Bayamo Plaza came to an end.

This unfinished urban center that generally remained lonely up to that moment, had been subject to a debate about the legitimacy that the tyrant had tried to tribute to the memory of the Apostle José Martí on the occasion of his centennial birth in 1953.

After the memorable moment, when this became the REVOLUTION PLAZA, a crowd was going to be seen so far, representing the new generations to come.

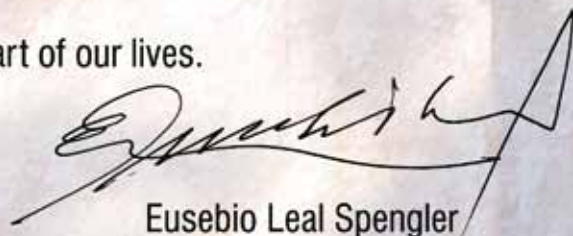
In the pages of this book, graphic testimony, together with brief texts, that indicate an interpretative route of our history can be found.

In the REVOLUTION PLAZA, located in the heart of the Cuban capital city, a flame has been lit up for all times. Fidel, Raúl, Ché, Camilo and everybody's faces, which modeled with their lives and work this human monument for the ideals of the Cuban Revolution, are shown up.

When turning every page, we feel a deep vibration; memories come in a mad rush, in addition to some other tear shed. We listened to intoned anthems during marches and rallies. Before us, literacy campaigners, with books and pencils, are visualized. Also soldiers and militiamen, with rifles and guns; pioneer boys and girls, with illuminated eyes; juvenile brigades, countrymen, workers, internationalist combatants, great heads of States, leaders of nations and of peoples; intellectuals, and artists...

The REVOLUTION PLAZA has been, is, and will be part of our lives.

June, 30. 2006



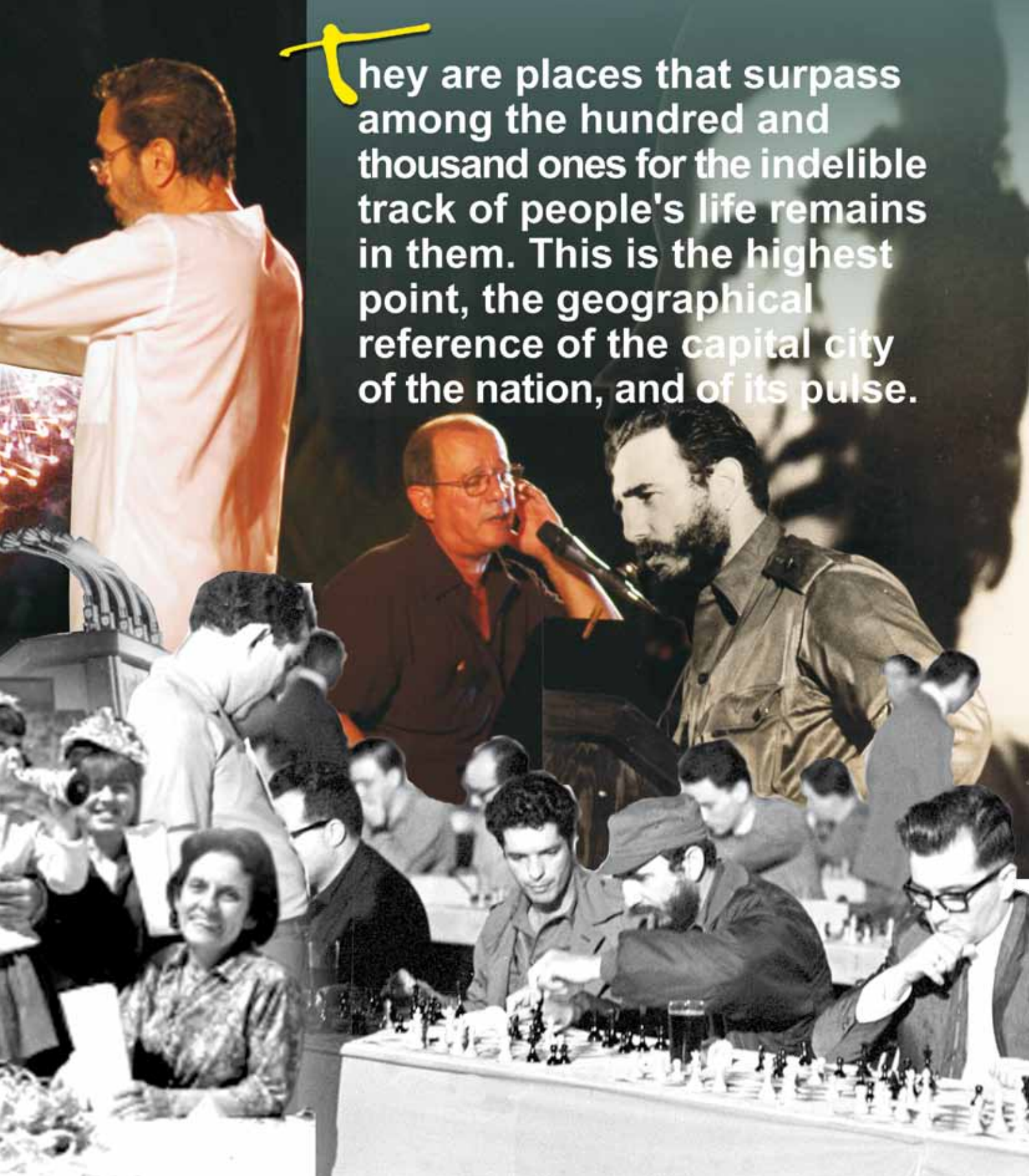
Eusebio Leal Spengler

There are places that
perpetuate the historical
memoir of peoples, their
happiness, grieves, and their
most transcendental
decisions.







A collage of historical photographs. In the upper left, a man in a light-colored shirt is seen from the back, looking towards a brightly lit area. In the center, Fidel Castro is shown speaking into a microphone. To his right, Che Guevara is depicted in profile, looking down. The lower portion of the image shows several people seated at a long table, focused on playing chess. The background is dark and indistinct.

They are places that surpass among the hundred and thousand ones for the indelible track of people's life remains in them. This is the highest point, the geographical reference of the capital city of the nation, and of its pulse.





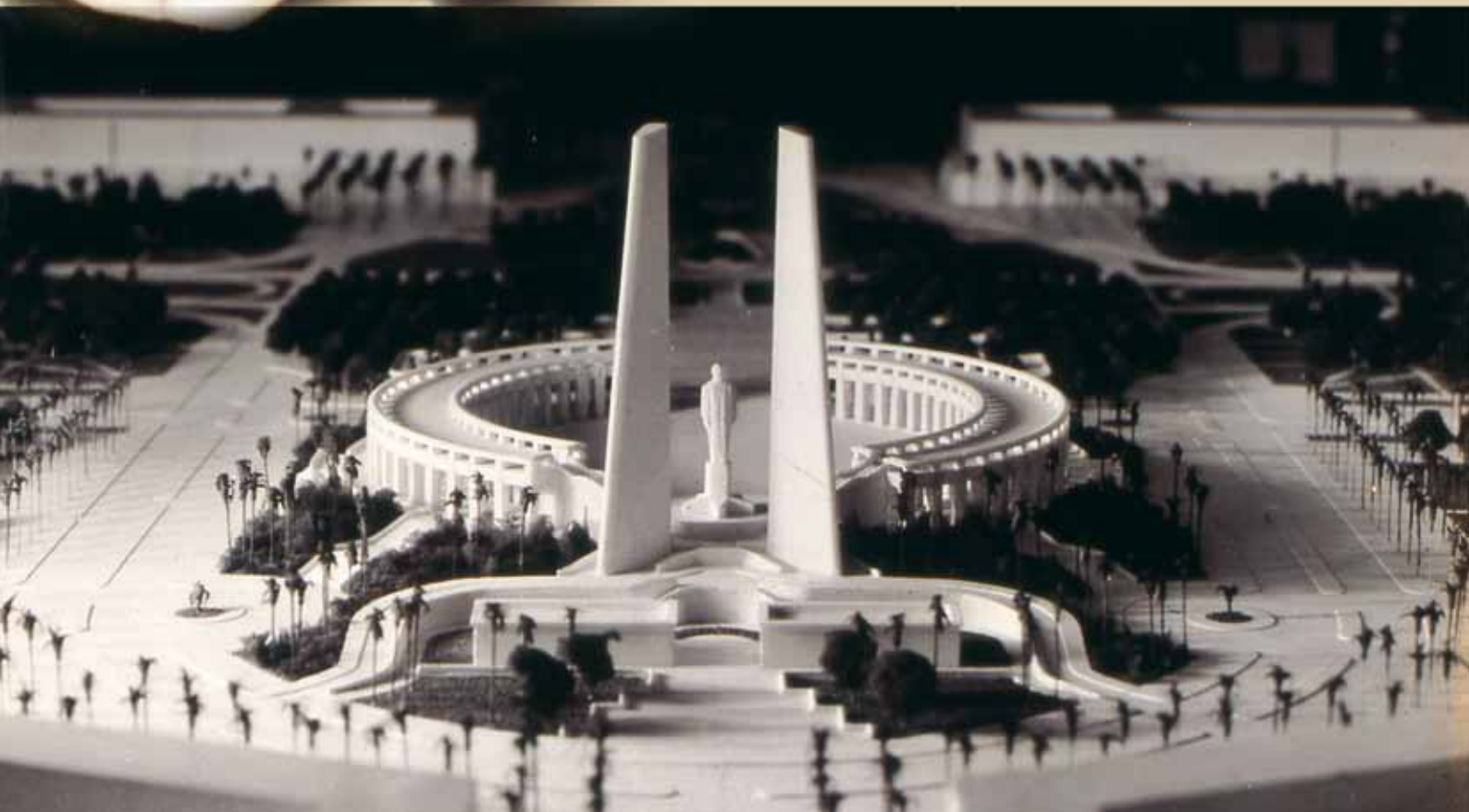
In Cuba, this place is undoubtedly the **REVOLUTION PLAZA** for during tens of years, after the triumph of the Revolution, on January 1, 1959, it has been the core of the rebel and indomitable Cuban people.



Every Cuban citizen learnt that a sacred place must be chosen for the most distinguished Cuban patriot: José Martí.

This history, full of branches and episodes, dates back to the midst of 1920s, when the then Secretary of Public Works brought the prestigious French civil engineer Forrestier to Havana to study the urban network of the city and of its geographical center. In 1926, the task had already been fulfilled; the Loma de los Catalanes (Catalonians Hill) was spotted as the geographical core of the city, where the Civic Center must be built.

Subsequently, and according to the presidential decree, dated on June 2, 1937, the Main Commission Pro Monument to Martí was created. This Commission called for a contest—of Inter-American character and of free conception—to choose the project of the Monument and of the surrounding Civic Center, estimated for a perimeter of 932,000 m2.





MONUMENTO

FACHADA NORTE

A



JOSE MARTI

ESCALA 1-100



After making new callings, “The Acropolis of the Americas” got the first place. Aquiles Maza, architect, and Juan José Sicre, sculptor, won with a sort of construction close to Greek temples—88 columns in total, and a great frieze on the front, locating the statue of Martí in an inner courtyard of the temple.

Fulgencio Batista opposed the most to Sicre-Maza project. After taking over the presidential seat, with the March 1952 coup and interested to clean up his image before all Cubans, he gave instructions to build the present five-pointed star shape obelisk. This project belonged to Jean Labatut, Raoul Otero, and Enrique Varela. The obelisk exhibited on top José Martí’s statue, rigid and in vertical position.

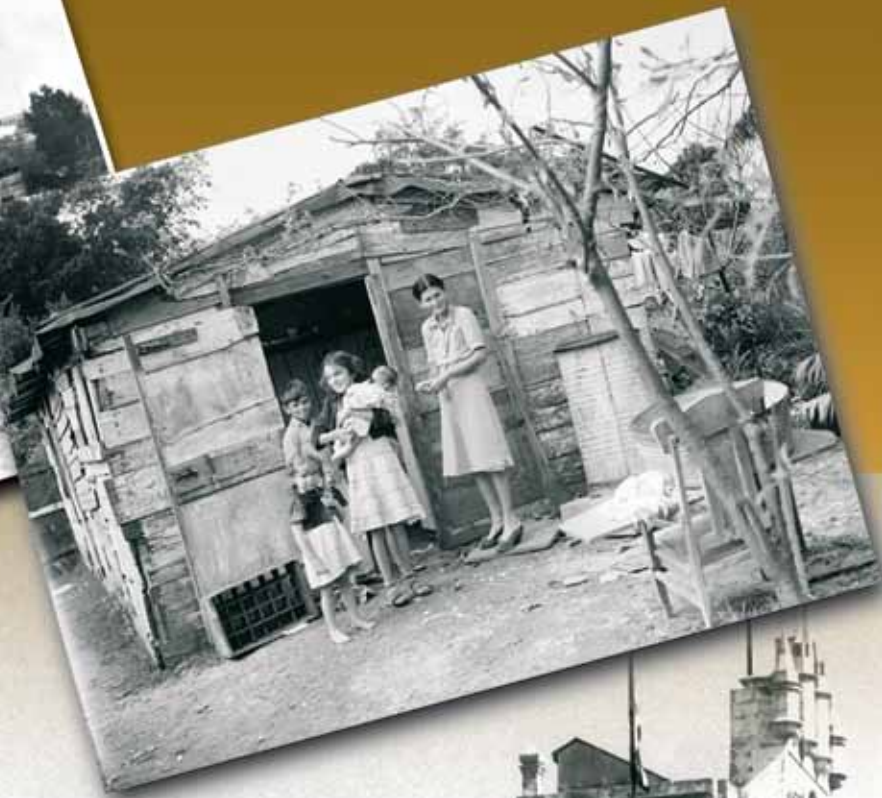
Juan José Sicre wrote to press of the time and carried out a campaign against Batista’s decision. The claim worked out and decision was made to put together both projects, removing the statue of Martí from the top of the obelisk, and replacing it with that of Sicre on the front, i.e., a monument complex, mixing the two projects that had repeatedly been in contest.

Expropriation of lands began in 1949.

One day, the neighbors of La Pelusa slum and part of some others, located in areas of the present REVOLUTION PLAZA, were informed that they had a week for moving their poor dwellings out of that perimeter.

They began seeking for protection and contacted a young attorney, famous for being a defendant of just causes. These people told him that they were too poor and were not in conditions to afford the cost of legal arrangements. The attorney responded he would do it not for money but for justice, and litigation started. The attorney began organizing neighbors councils at La Quinta, El Capricho, La Pelusa, Pan con Timba slums...





Catalonian Ermitage

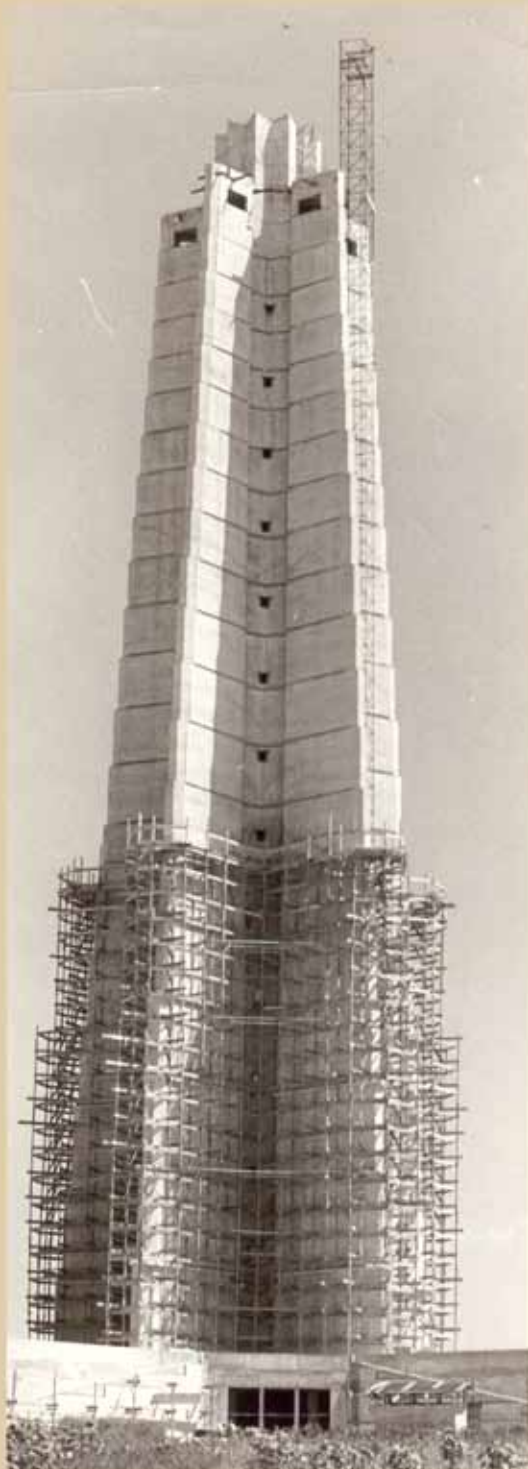




“Apart from rendering homage to the Apostle—he told us—the way they are pretending acting is an outrage.” He met with us every night to inform on progress of discussions. And one day he brought the news that we would have a month, instead of a week, to move out and every one would be paid \$400,00 Cuban pesos, a considerable sum of money at the time, to find a solution to housing.

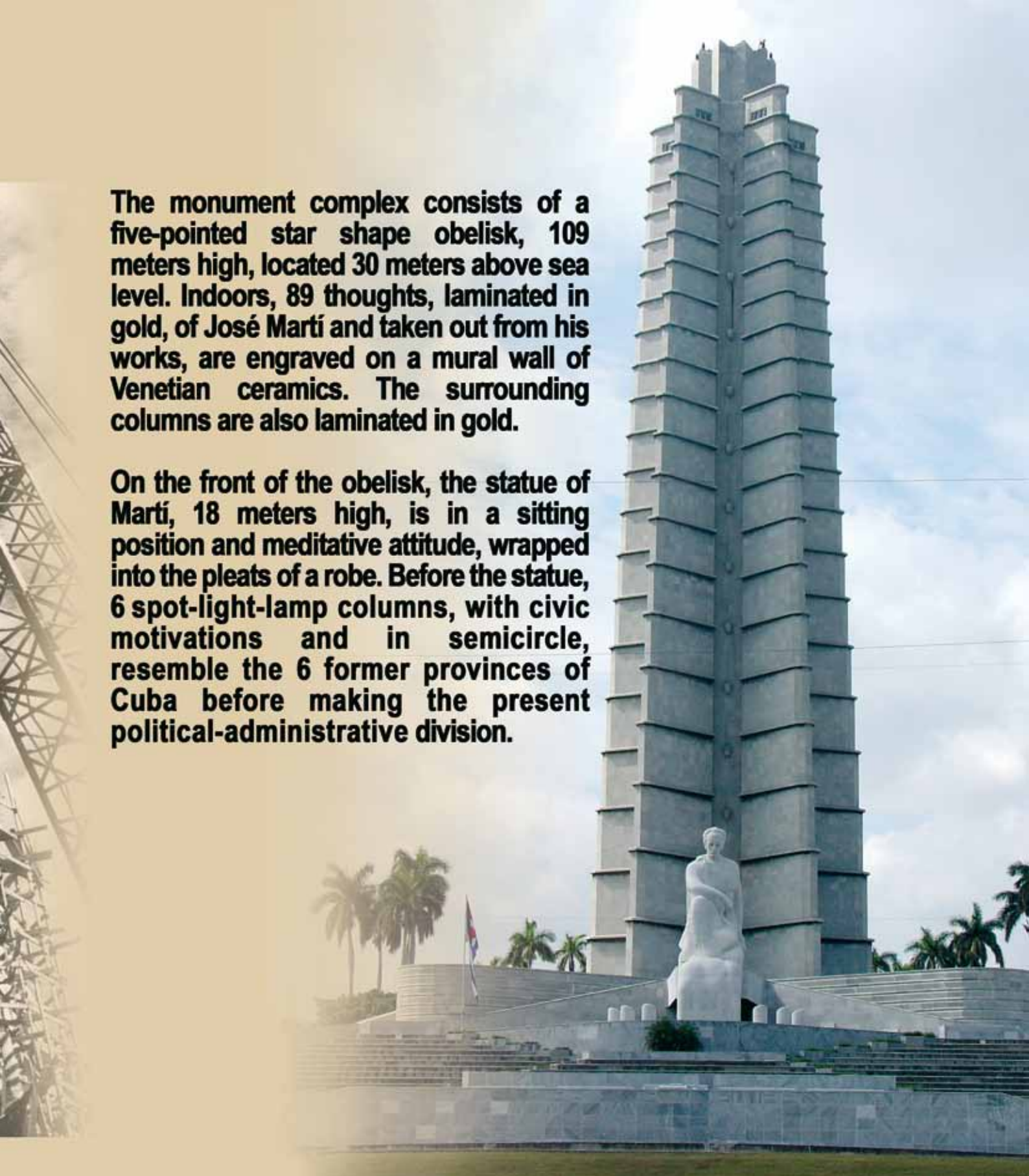
The attorney was Fidel Castro Ruz.

Finally, works began in the late 1953 and, at the time of the triumph of the Revolution, the works had not been concluded— only the Monument and Statue had been erected. Outdoor areas and the base, which according to the project included a library and reading rooms in the five points and a museum in the central area, however, were not finished.



The monument complex consists of a five-pointed star shape obelisk, 109 meters high, located 30 meters above sea level. Indoors, 89 thoughts, laminated in gold, of José Martí and taken out from his works, are engraved on a mural wall of Venetian ceramics. The surrounding columns are also laminated in gold.

On the front of the obelisk, the statue of Martí, 18 meters high, is in a sitting position and meditative attitude, wrapped into the pleats of a robe. Before the statue, 6 spot-light-lamp columns, with civic motivations and in semicircle, resemble the 6 former provinces of Cuba before making the present political-administrative division.

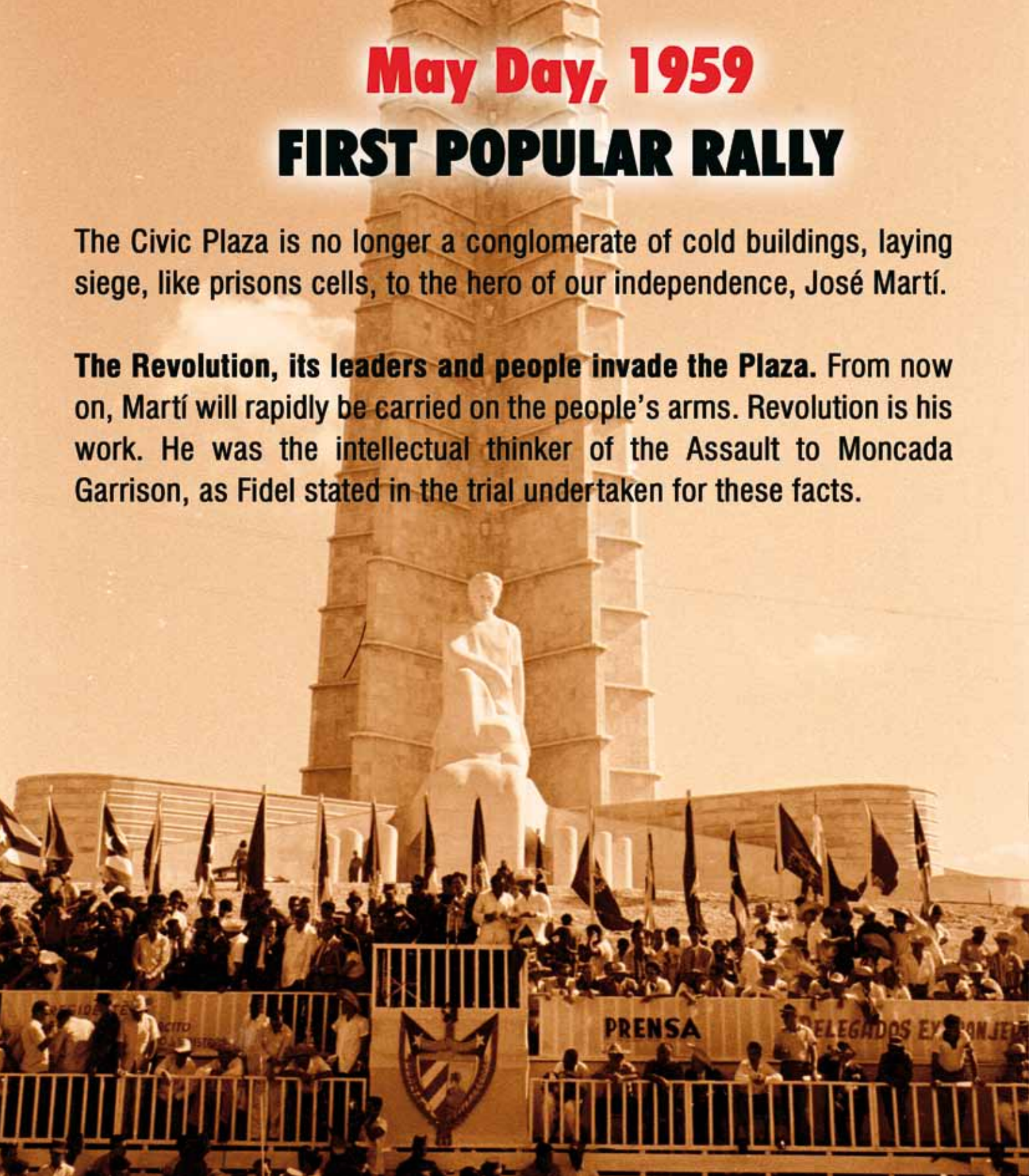


May Day, 1959

FIRST POPULAR RALLY

The Civic Plaza is no longer a conglomerate of cold buildings, laying siege, like prisons cells, to the hero of our independence, José Martí.

The Revolution, its leaders and people invade the Plaza. From now on, Martí will rapidly be carried on the people's arms. Revolution is his work. He was the intellectual thinker of the Assault to Moncada Garrison, as Fidel stated in the trial undertaken for these facts.



The Apostle's dreams remained unfinished because of the foreign intervention in 1898.

"This is the Cuban Revolution our mambises always dreamed of, all honest Cubans have dreamed of. This is the Cuba Libre Martí had dreamed of."

"Today, for the first time, we have a free, independent, and, above all, sovereign government in our history."

Commander Raúl Castro Ruz
May Day, 1959





SPONTANEOUS JOY OF

There was an enthusiastic joy of an innumerable crowd that could bear the hot and tropical sun with no fainting or suffocation.



SEMANA DE 40 HORAS



A REDEEMED PEOPLE



A MAY DAY NEVER



The Armed Forces and working masses went on parade with a single idea and feeling in their hearts.

At the base of the thinking marble of the Apostle, groups of countrymen, coming from neighboring towns, and from the past night, wait for the dawn of the May Day of the Year of Liberation. From the eve, the streets of all Havana showed the exciting waiting of the day to come. And when it came, while Martí's marble dyed of roses, the happy goings-and-comings of working crowds started as they joined other groups that spread posters, small and big, making Cuban flags wave in the wind.

All the Havana gives off a powerful breath of encouragement to push forward the work of a government all are somehow feeling a participant of for sure. This is the May Day nobody had ever seen yet.

“Today, in this May Day celebration, we, in our homeland and for the first time, see the workers who make our country produce with their hard work, parading. They are workers and peasants who had to fight for helping conquering the liberty of our homeland some past day, for all of us are the same thing...” (Applause)

Commander Raúl Castro Ruz

EVER SEEN IN CUBA

DEPTO. CONST. Y ORGANIZACION
DE
CIUDADES ESCOL



"The Government of the People will abolish latifundium and will freely give land to countrymen."

Commander Raúl Castro Ruz



“Our Revolution will give the last and necessary charge to eliminate that fatal prejudice of racial discrimination. (Applause) The unity of the whole people is so important to the Revolution as the involvement of all Cubans is to the nation, starting by giving everybody the same possibilities within a true concept of equality.”

Commander Raúl Castro Ruz

The powerful and impressive march of workers was about to start, amongst applauses and hurrahs, to be subsequently repeated for all demonstrators by thousands of people rallied before the presidential tribune.



There were going the men entrusted to defend the homeland, the liberty, the Agrarian Reform, the Rent Law, the domestic industry, wage and employment; the happiness of Cuban homes.



"The time when something was said in political tribunes and, in fact, opposite things were done, is already past. This is no longer the people, where a few politicians were living and that, when elections were about to come, they—in political tribunes—used to make promises they never accomplished for the benefit of the people, but for the profit of a few ones..

Commander Raúl Castro Ruz



The Rebel Commander, Raul Castro, headed the rally. Fidel Castro was on tour to U.S.A., Canada, and Argentina.

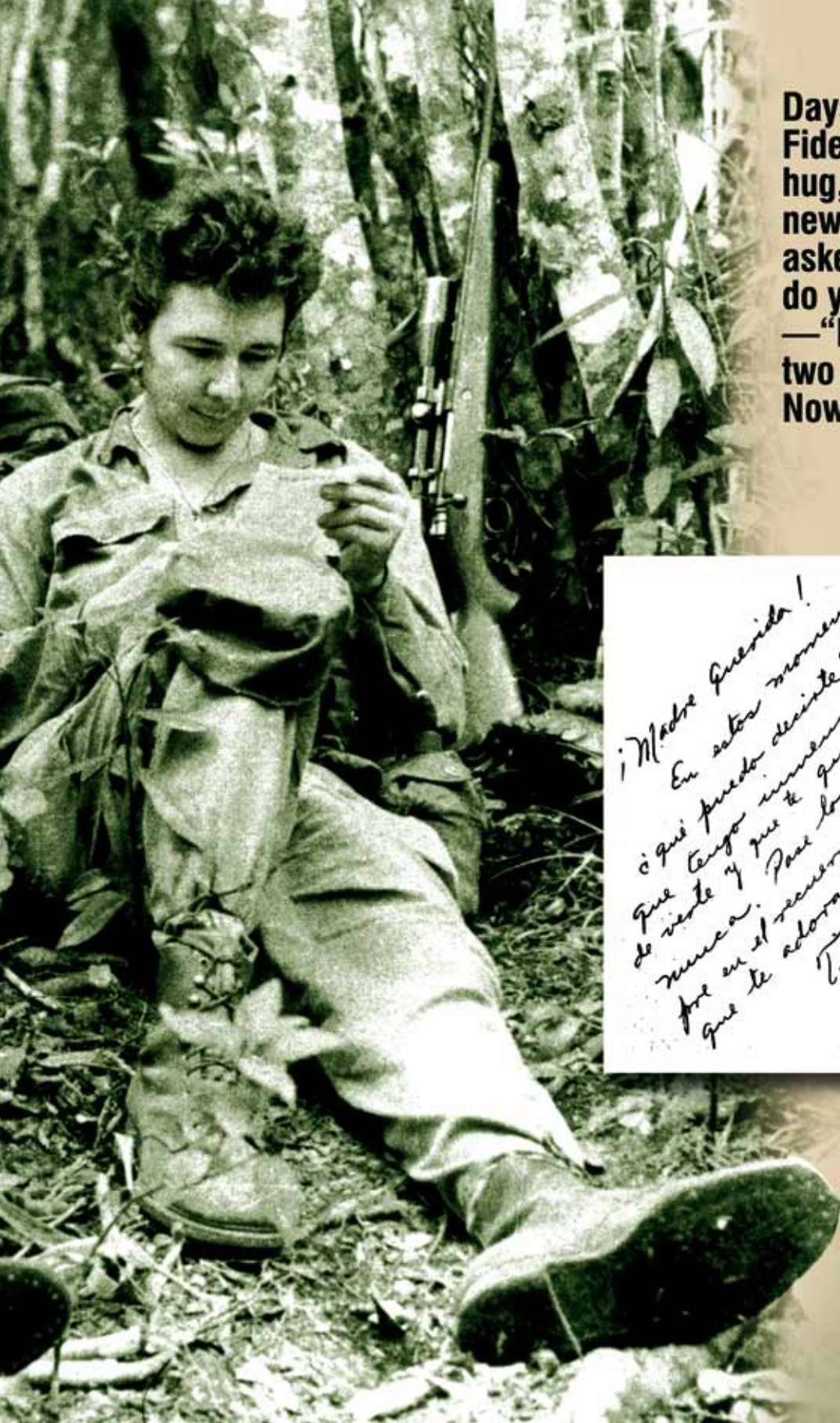


Raúl Castro had commanded the taking of the Palace of Justice during the assault to Moncada Garrison. When arrested with some other assailants, and convinced that they all were going to be killed, Raúl snatched the gun away from the chief of the tyranny patrol and took them as prisoners. He was a member of Granma Expedition and, after fighting at Alegría de Pio Battle, he got isolated with a small group of combatants, without information about expeditionaries or their leader, his brother, Fidel Castro. In those circumstances, he moved towards the Sierra Maestra Mountains, determined to start fighting against the tyranny, surrounded by an army with order to kill him. Those were quite hard days.





A note in his diary is eloquent: "...late at night, a noise, whipping the treetops, was heard. We quickly realized it was a heavy rain... The bags available were used to protect weapons... With Ciro (reference is made to Ciro Redondo, note of the editor), I took shelter under an abandoned oak tree and, with the help of a sisal bag, those used for sugar, we slept all night, chilling, and got soaked to the skin. In the morning I found that the dammed crabs, which during the night were thousands and about all sizes, had eaten the right sleeve of my shirt."



Days later I finally found Fidel. After a very exciting hug, the leader of the newly born Revolution asked --How many rifles do you bring?

—"Five"—and with the two I have are seven! Now, we do win the war!

*¡Madre Querida!
En estos momentos
¿qué puedo decirte? Sólo
que tengo inmensos deseos que
de veinte y que te quieras más que
nunca. Pasa lo que pase, siempre
pre en el recuerdo tendrás un hijo
que te adora eternamente.
Tu
Raúl*

nov 24 de 1956

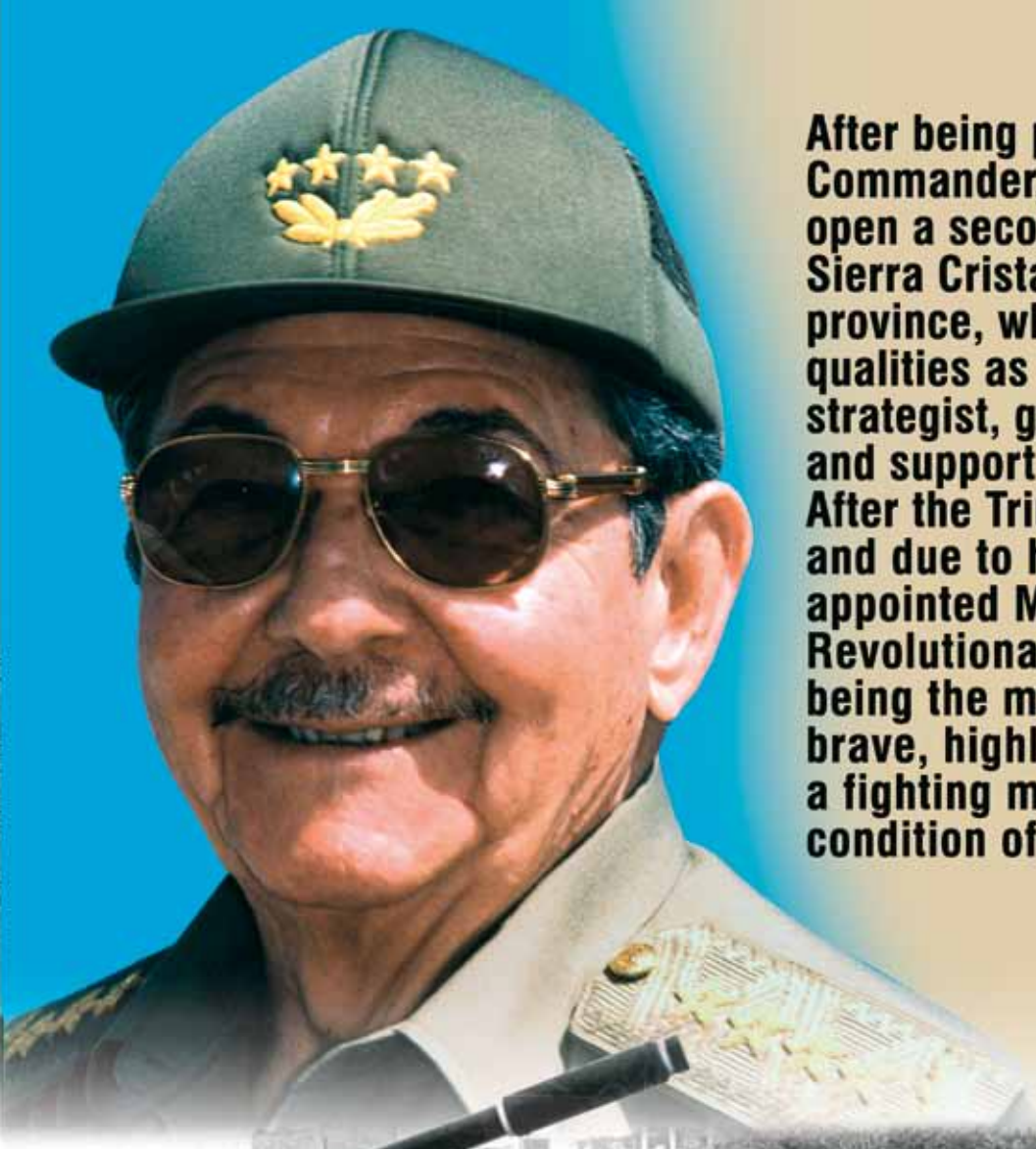
Sierra Gorda, Feb 27 de 1959

Se comunica por este
medio que ha sido ascen-
dido al grado de Comandan-
te el Capitán Raúl Castro
Ruz y se le nombra jefe
de la columna 6 que ope-
ra en el territorio monta-
ñoso situado al norte de
la Provincia de Oriente, de-
limitado al término municipal de
Mayarí al de Baracoa, que
opera bajo su mando las
patrullas rebeldes que ope-
ran en dicha zona.

Se le faculta para
conceder grados de oficiales he-
ta Capitán y designar jefes
de Columnas con el grado de
Comandante si las circunstancias
de la campaña lo exigen,
que en este último caso debe
ser ratificado por la Coman-
dancia General.
Se le faculta así mismo
para adoptar medidas estrictas per-
tinientes a la buena marcha
de las operaciones, poder aplicar
el más estricto orden, aplicar
los preceptos de su Reglamento
de la Milicia Rebelde.
Se le faculta igualmente
para recibir e inscribir todo aporte
económico voluntario que de le
hagan.
Raúl Castro
Comandante Rebelde







After being promoted to the rank of Commander, Raúl was appointed to open a second guerrilla front, at Sierra Cristal, north of Oriente province, where he put to test his qualities as organizer and military strategist, gaining the sympathy and support of country population. After the Triumph of the Revolution, and due to his merits, he was appointed Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, being the maker of a disciplined, brave, highly prepared army with a fighting morale, due to the rebel condition of the people.





Workers and students also marched carrying weapons of an Infantry Company, and a banner with an inscription that reads: “In Wartime and in Peacetime, Workers and the Rebel Army are the Same Thing.”



Following, a representation of agricultural workers carrying *mochas*

“That happy future we desire for our people will neither come in silver tray nor will be a bed of roses; this will be a hard road to follow and the future to come must be conquered with struggle, sacrifice and faith.”

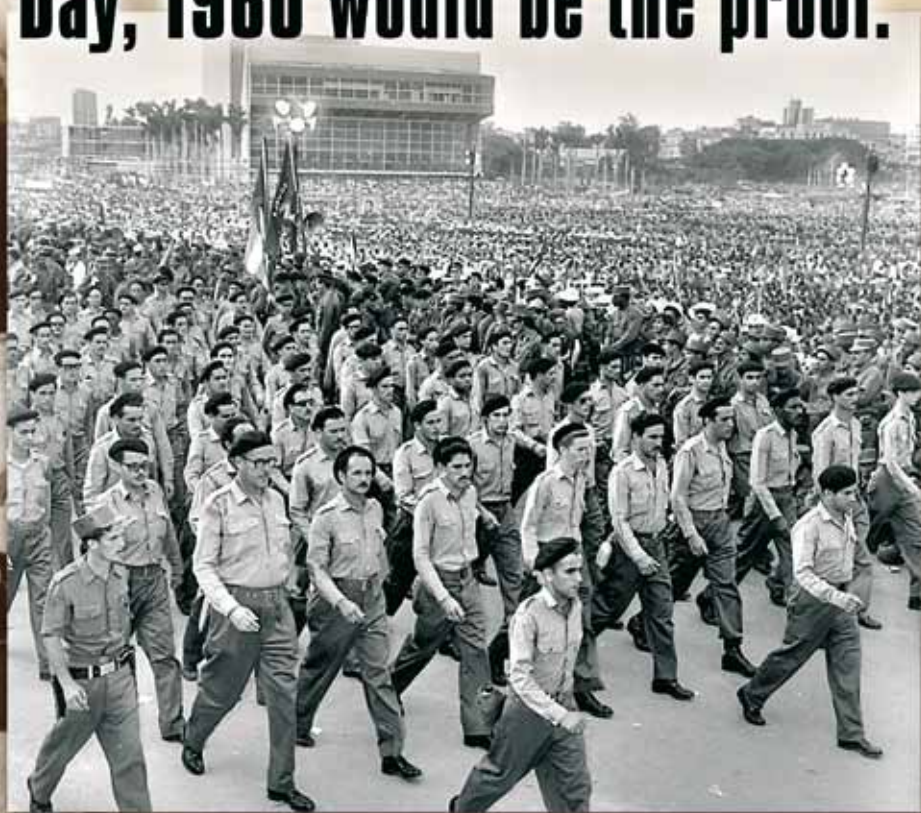
Commander Raúl Castro Ruz





PEDIMOS ADIESTRAMIENTO
VIVA LA C.T.T.
TRANSPORTE MOTORIZADO

**The Revolution would give in to the popular outcry.
The parade of May Day, 1960 would be the proof.**



May 8, 1959

Fidel is back to Cuba after a tour to the United States of America, Canada and Argentina.


"I am back home with the same as when



Back to my
hometown
with the same dignity
as I left."



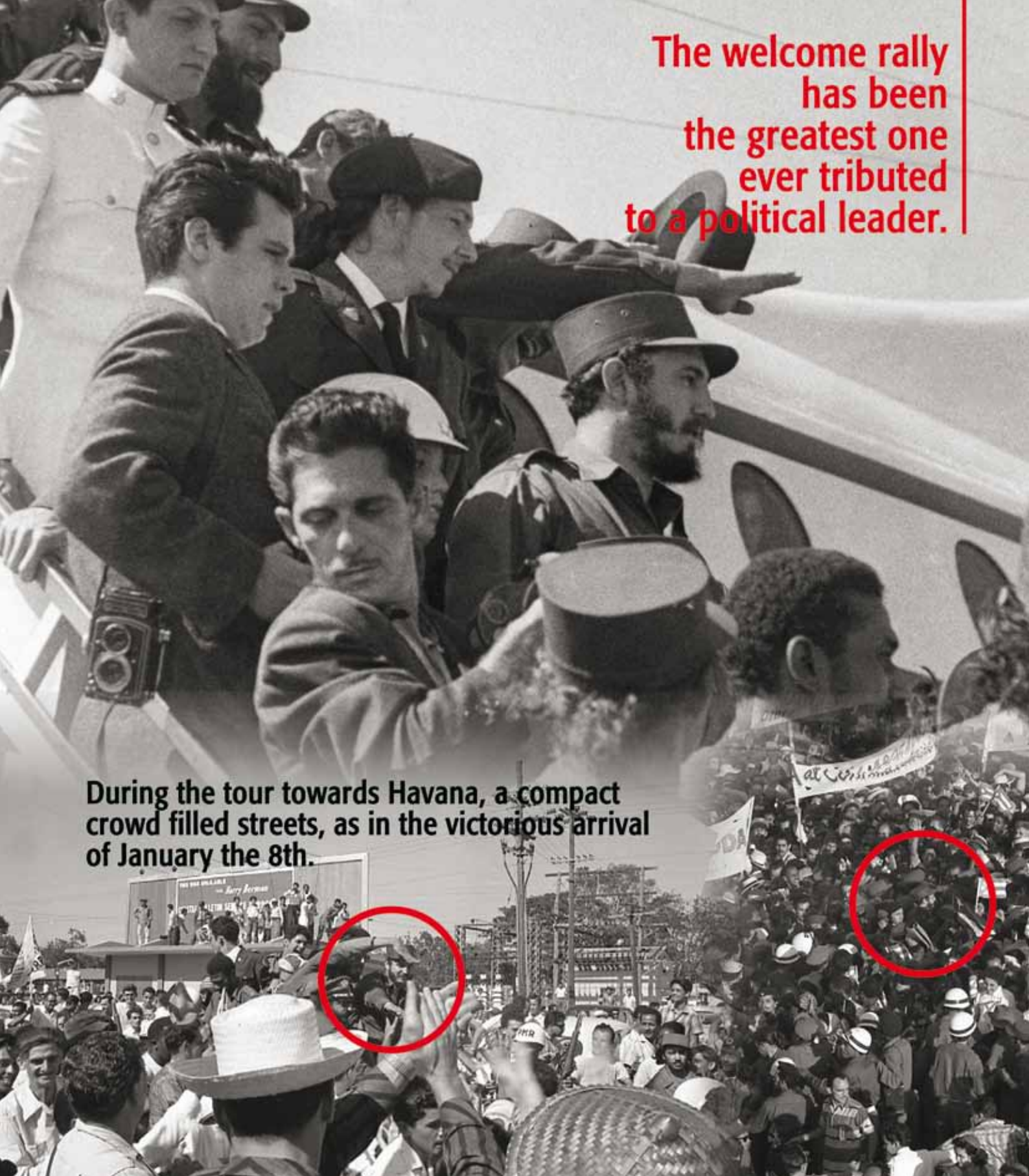
The Cuban people were flowing to Boyeros Avenue during the morning and the afternoon.

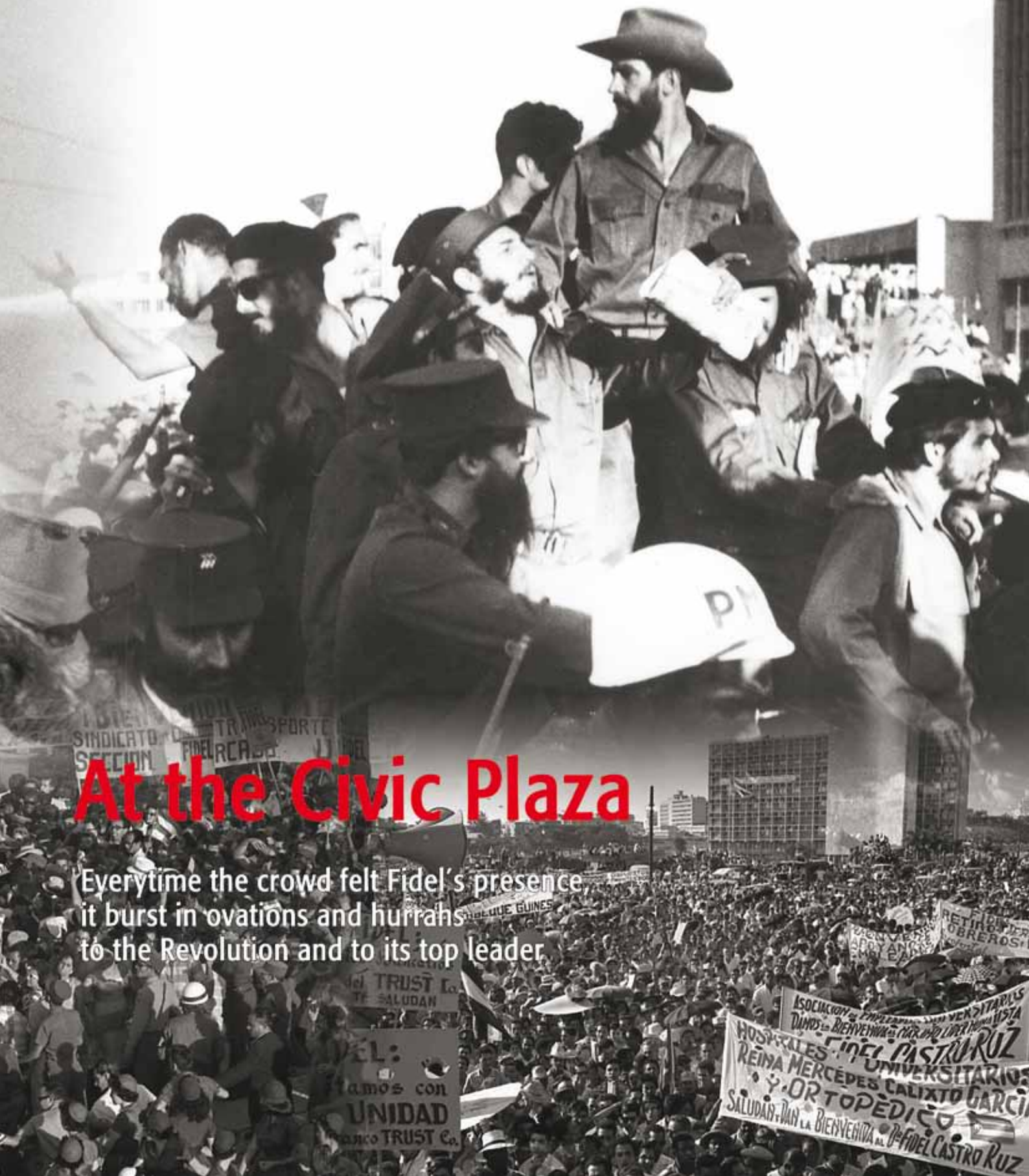


Che and Camilo during the welcome to Fidel in the airport.

The welcome rally
has been
the greatest one
ever tributed
to a political leader.

During the tour towards Havana, a compact
crowd filled streets, as in the victorious arrival
of January the 8th.





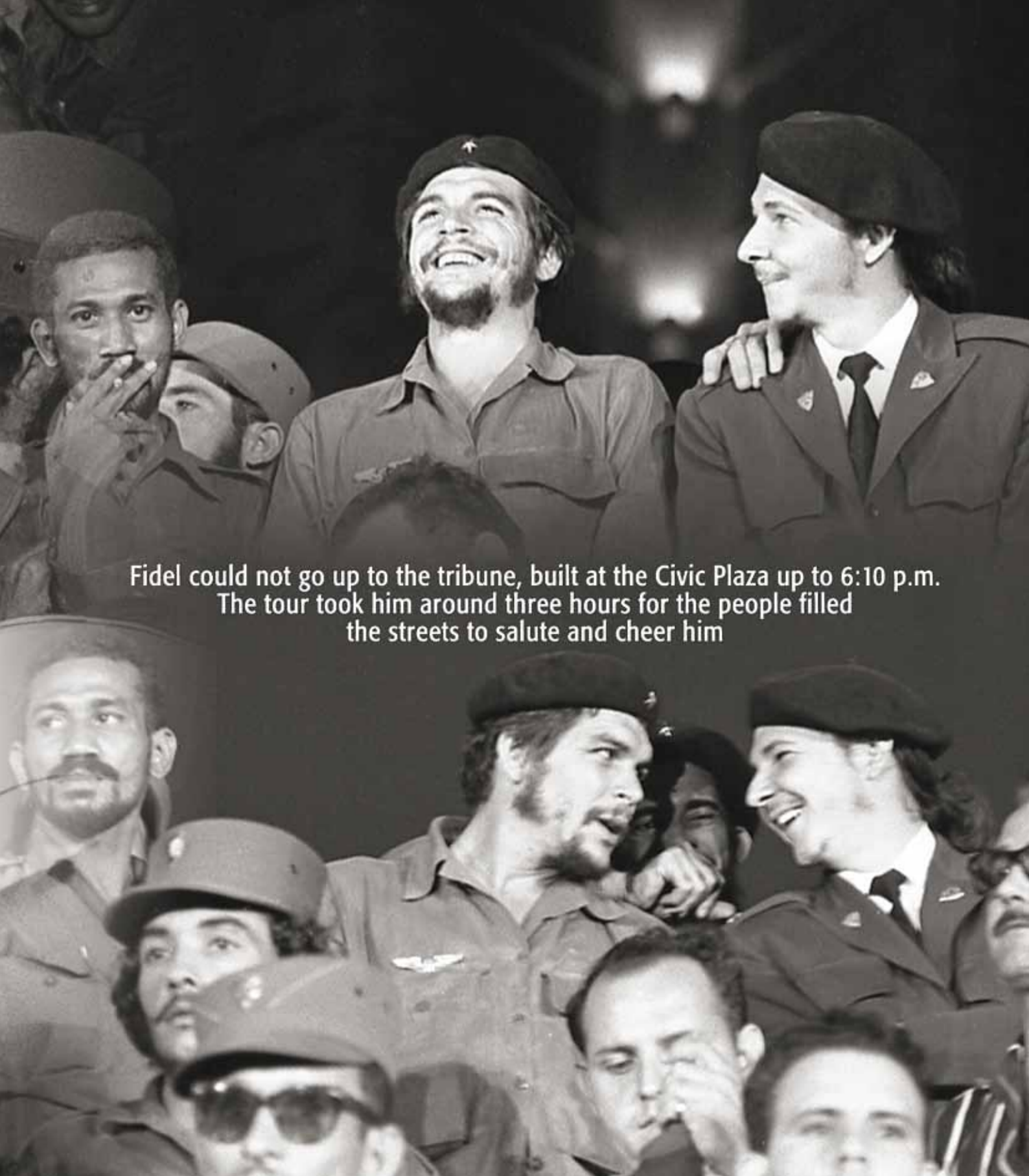
At the Civic Plaza

Everytime the crowd felt Fidel's presence, it burst in ovations and hurrahs to the Revolution and to its top leader

del TRUST Co.
TE SALUDAN
FIDEL:
tamos con
UNIDAD
anco TRUST Co.

ASOCIACION DE EMPLEADOS DE VENTAS
DAMOS LA BIENVENIDA A LA REVOLUCION
HOSPITALES REINA MERCEDES CALIXTO GARCIA
Y ORTOPEDICO
SALUDAN DAN LA BIENVENIDA AL DR. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ

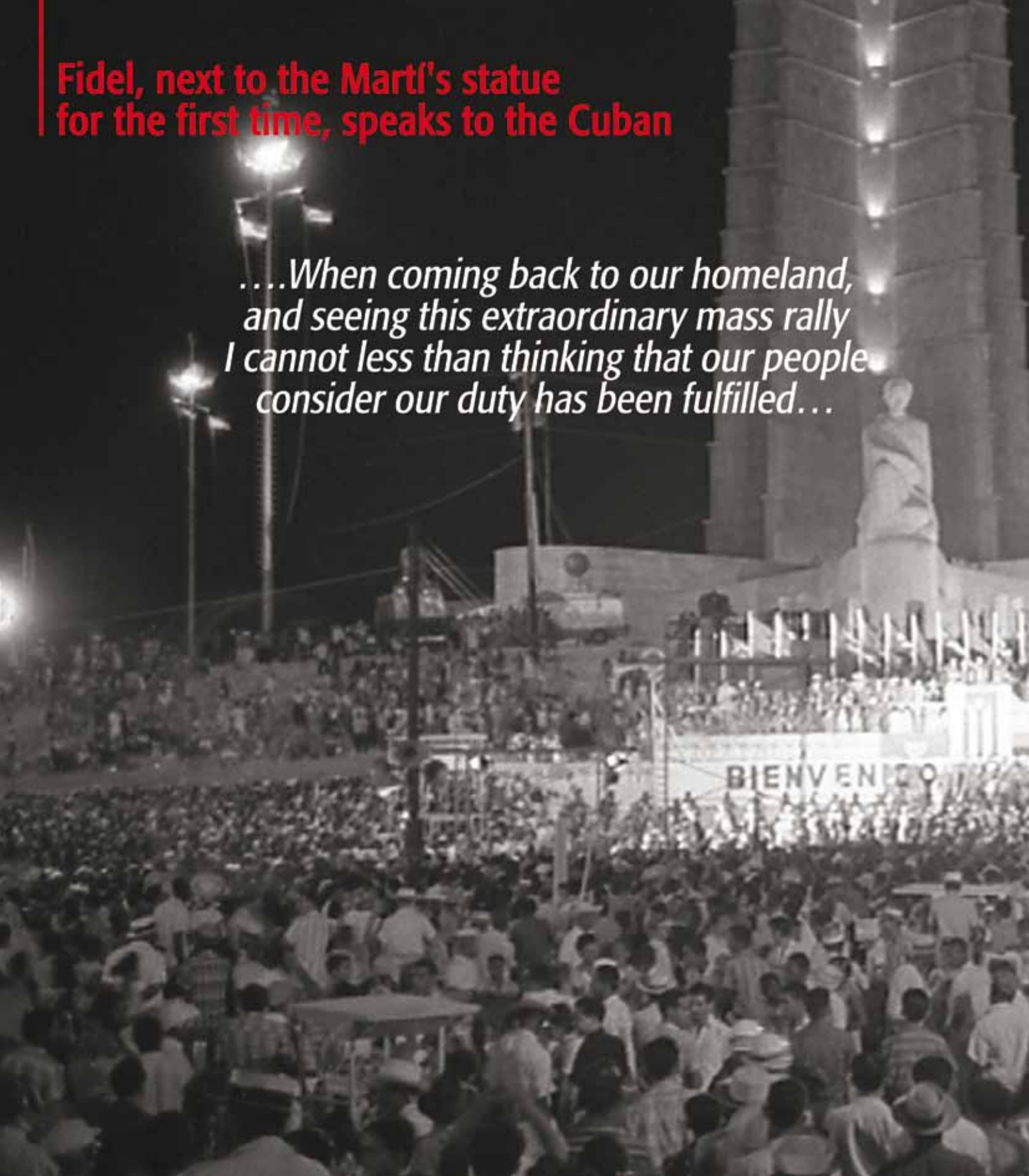




Fidel could not go up to the tribune, built at the Civic Plaza up to 6:10 p.m.
The tour took him around three hours for the people filled
the streets to salute and cheer him

**Fidel, next to the Martí's statue
for the first time, speaks to the Cuban**

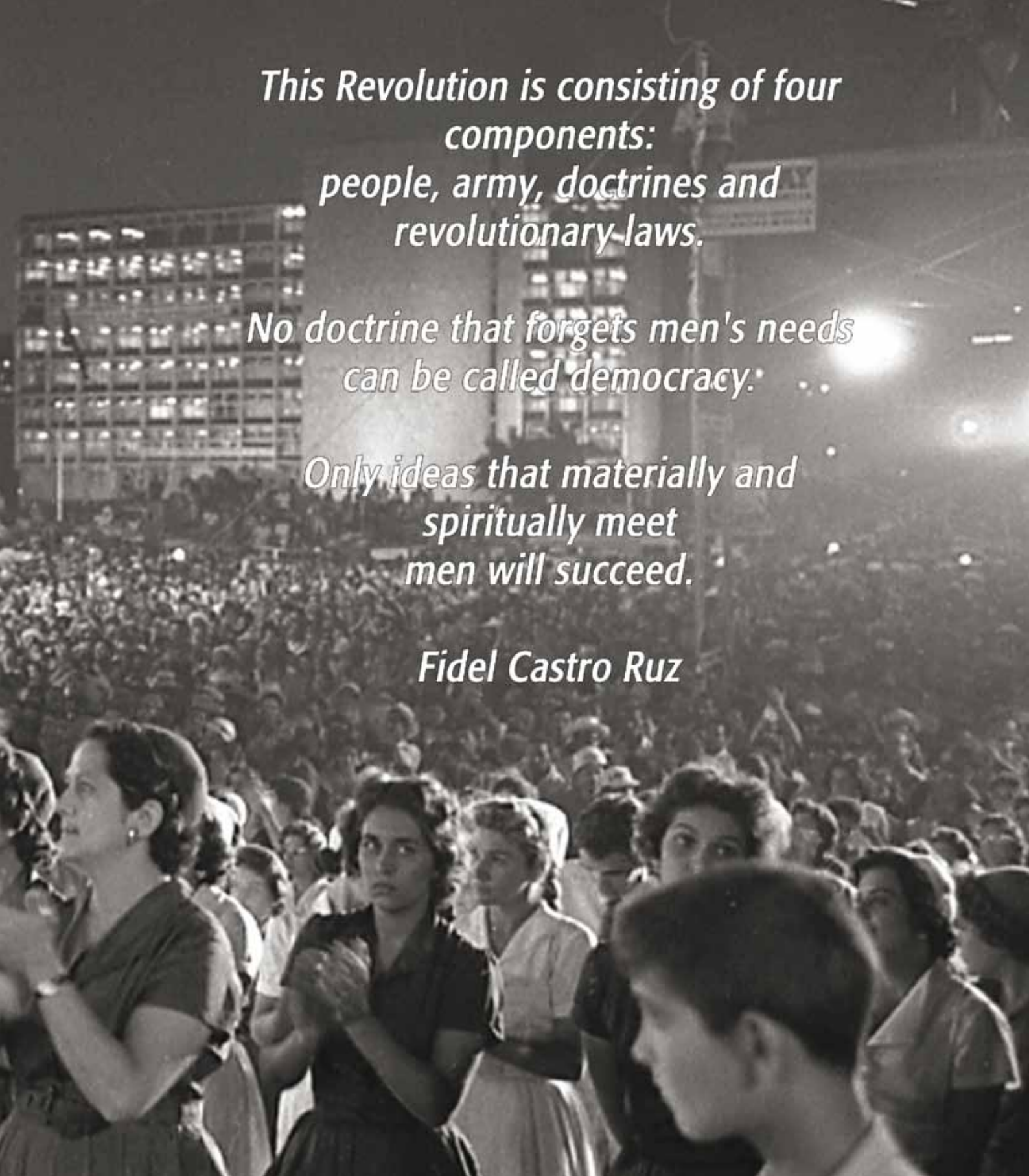
*....When coming back to our homeland,
and seeing this extraordinary mass rally
I cannot less than thinking that our people
consider our duty has been fulfilled...*





*Cuba is a paradigm and hope
for Latin America.*





*This Revolution is consisting of four
components:
people, army, doctrines and
revolutionary laws.*

*No doctrine that forgets men's needs
can be called democracy.*

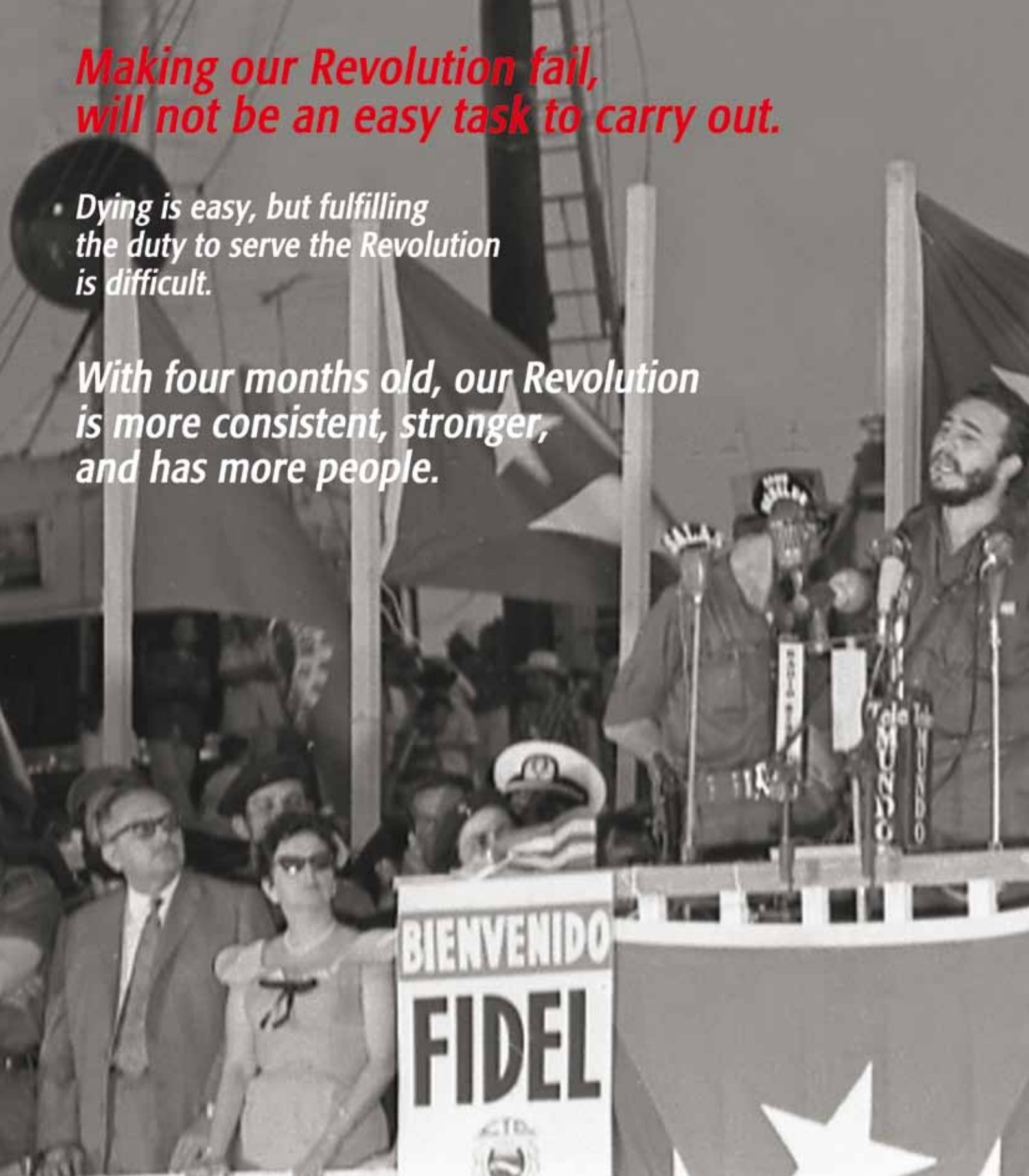
*Only ideas that materially and
spiritually meet
men will succeed.*

Fidel Castro Ruz

***Making our Revolution fail,
will not be an easy task to carry out.***

- *Dying is easy, but fulfilling
the duty to serve the Revolution
is difficult.*

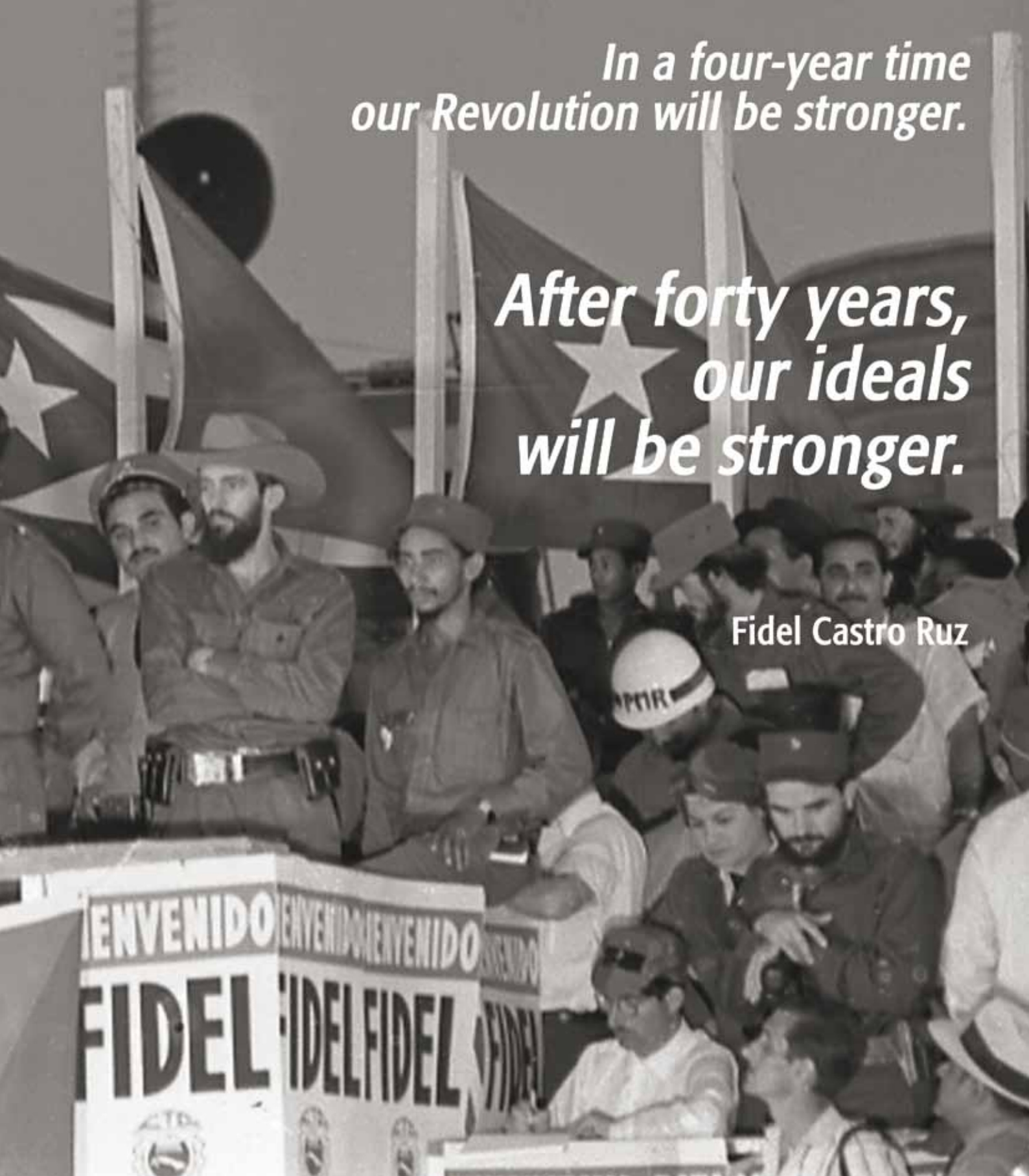
***With four months old, our Revolution
is more consistent, stronger,
and has more people.***



*In a four-year time
our Revolution will be stronger.*

*After forty years,
our ideals
will be stronger.*

Fidel Castro Ruz



1959

July the 26th

Huge mass rally is held to commemorate the 6th Anniversary of the Attack to the Moncada Garrison, in support of the Agrarian Reform, and to request Fidel accept the popular mandate and be back to the post of Primer Minister, once he had resigned weeks earlier.





The day started with a military parade at Prado Promenade.
It is necessary to let everybody knows that we know
how to shoot

--Said Fidel during the parade, gathering over 500,000 people alongside the Prado Promenade. Combined forces of the Army, the Navy and the Revolutionary Air Force were involved in this magnificent parade.



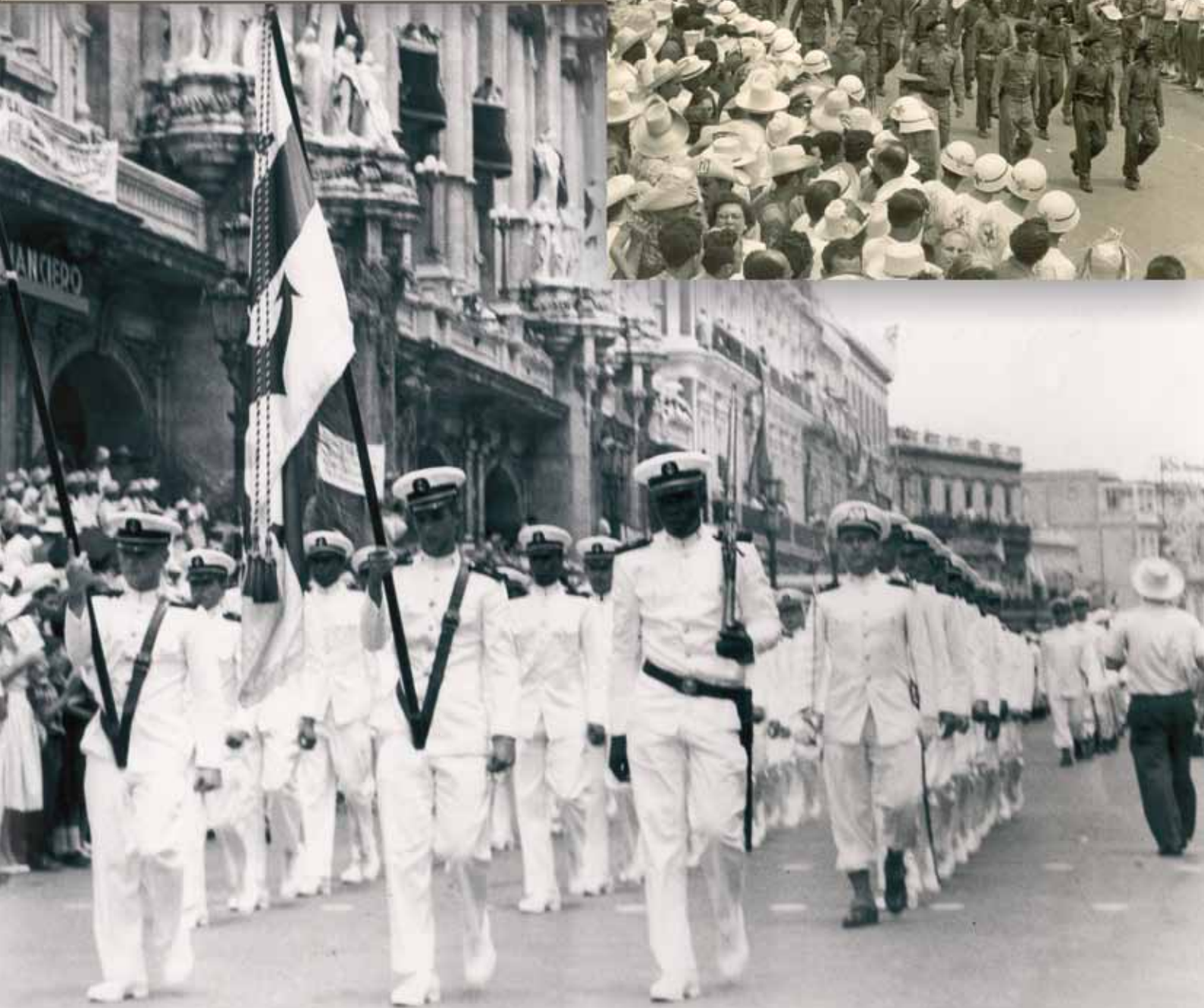
Fidel, together with the Minister of State (Dr. Osvaldo Dorticós), and Commanders Raúl Castro, Camilo Cienfuegos, amongst many other beloved leaders of the young Revolution were present during the parade. Also General Lázaro Cárdenas, former President of Mexico, and great friend of Cuba was present.



This demonstration was truly exciting for all those who were present there, the people acclaimed the armed forces and to Fidel for such a great demonstration. Then, before questions of the press, Fidel expressed:

“We have the backing of the moral force, and of the people, but it is important for everybody to know that we also count on the armed forces and we know how to shoot.”





July 26, 1959

An embrace for history



The tremendous cavalry of the Invading Column, headed by the Chief of Rebel Army, Camilo Cienfuegos that had left Yagüajay, in Las Villas province, arrived in Havana in the early morning hours of the 25th. 2,000 countrymen, wearing palm-leaf hats, a machete at their belts and with Cuban flags in their hands and organized in 37 platoons, made up the Column.





As passing by the streets of the City, people came over to say hello. While cheering "Long Live Cuba Libre, and Long Live the Revolution," the people carried out spontaneous actions of patriotic happiness for the presence of such a genuine representation of countrymen who, full of bravery and courage, had covered a long distance to join their brothers of the City in this remarkable celebration.

500,000 countrymen in Havana.



Countrymen were lodged in Havana homes as if they were relatives, friends, brothers.

Two months earlier,

at La Plata, Sierra Maestra, main arena of guerrilla fight on the tyranny, Fidel Castro had passed the revindictory Agrarian Reform Act. Onwards, land would belong to those who work it. Sharecroppers, tenants and all capitalist forms to exploit countrymen are gone.





When signing the first title deed on lands, in favor of Engracia Blet, a small countrywoman of Baracoa, in the very east of Cuba, Fidel graphically stated:

"We start giving lands where the Spaniards began to take them away from Indians."



July the 13th **FIDEL RESIGNED**

The news shocked the nation. People went into the streets in support for the unquestionable leader. That night, and on a television broadcasting, Fidel explained the reasons:

The unjustified delay of President Urrutia to approve the Acts, of social benefit, passed by the Council of Ministers; the denial to reduce the wage that had inherited from the tyrant Fulgencio Batista, and, above all, the splitting work inside the revolutionary ranks, amongst many others, which affected and delayed the revolutionary march.

REN
FID
EXPLICA
LOS MOT

MUNICIA

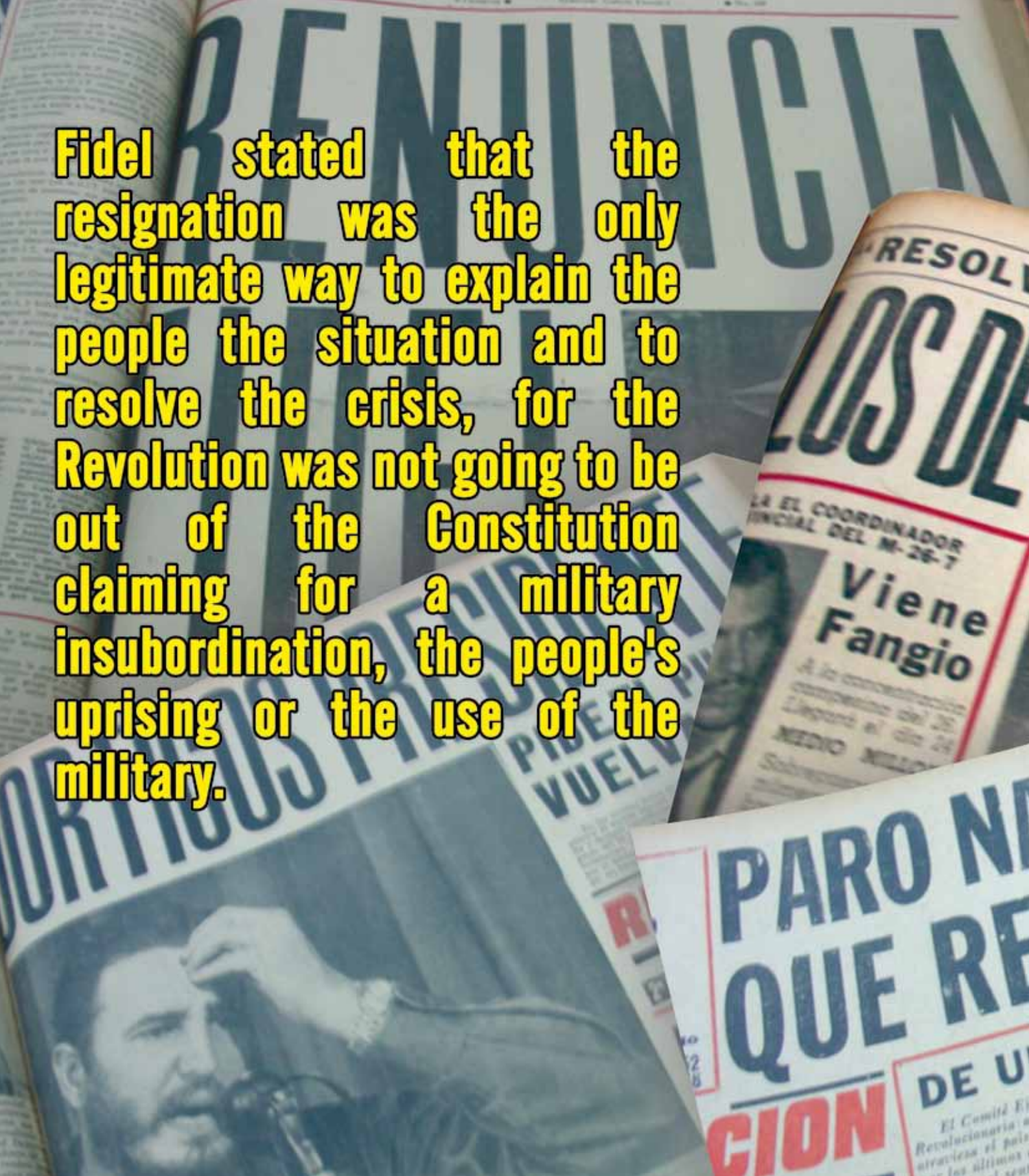
EL



RA HOY AL PUEBLO IVOS DE SU DECISION

guerra: el que ha sabido conducir el
de todos los

Fidel stated that the resignation was the only legitimate way to explain the people the situation and to resolve the crisis, for the Revolution was not going to be out of the Constitution claiming for a military insubordination, the people's uprising or the use of the military.



... PUEBLO MI RENDI...

VERA EL PUEBLO MI RENUNCIA EL DIA 26"

EL PUEBLO MI RENUNCIA EL DIA 26"
ALLA NO MANDAN AQUI
PARA

ACIONAL PARA EGRESE FIDE

EGRES

NA HORA, MAÑANA

...CTE, por a los estudiantes, a los
...ciudadanos, a los comerciantes,
...los profesionales...

...de la con
...del 20
...de la mañ
...de la mañ
...de la mañ

UNA HORA, NUNCA

divertencia a
campesinos

Miles
a H
Piden

Apoyo
a Fidel

Fidel
Miles de telegramas
a REVOLUCIÓN.
Piden que vuelva

Creemos que no se habrá
ningún país, un movimiento
tan poderoso, tan espontáneo,
levántalo ya como el que ha
del Círculo a su cargo de Vi-
cer Ministro.
De San Antonio • Madrid, la
República entera se puso de
pie para rechazar con vehemencia la posibilidad de que
Nicol abandonara la labor rectoral.
Continúa • en la pág. dos

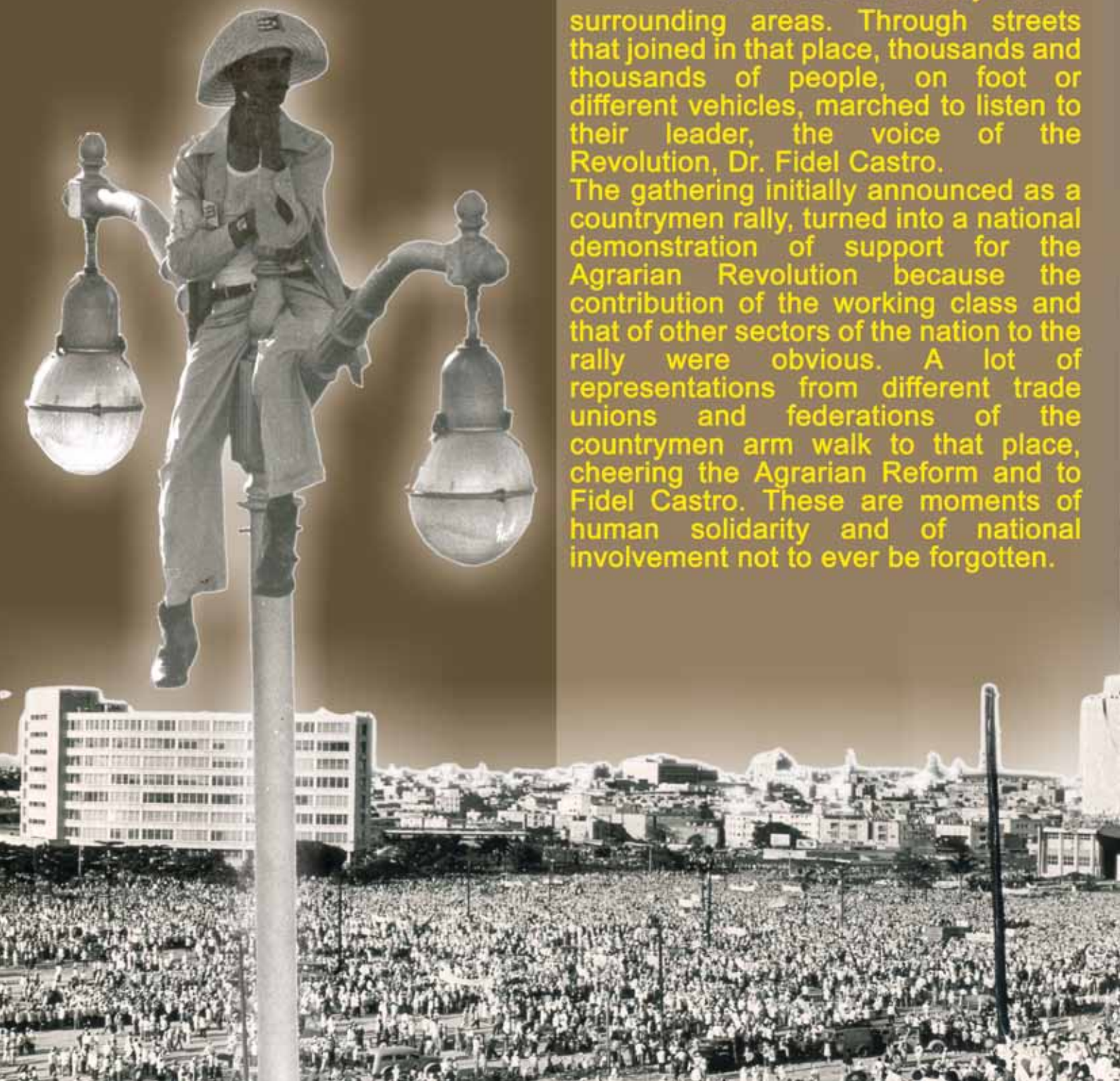
LUNES de REVOLUCIÓN
no se distribuirá
la edición

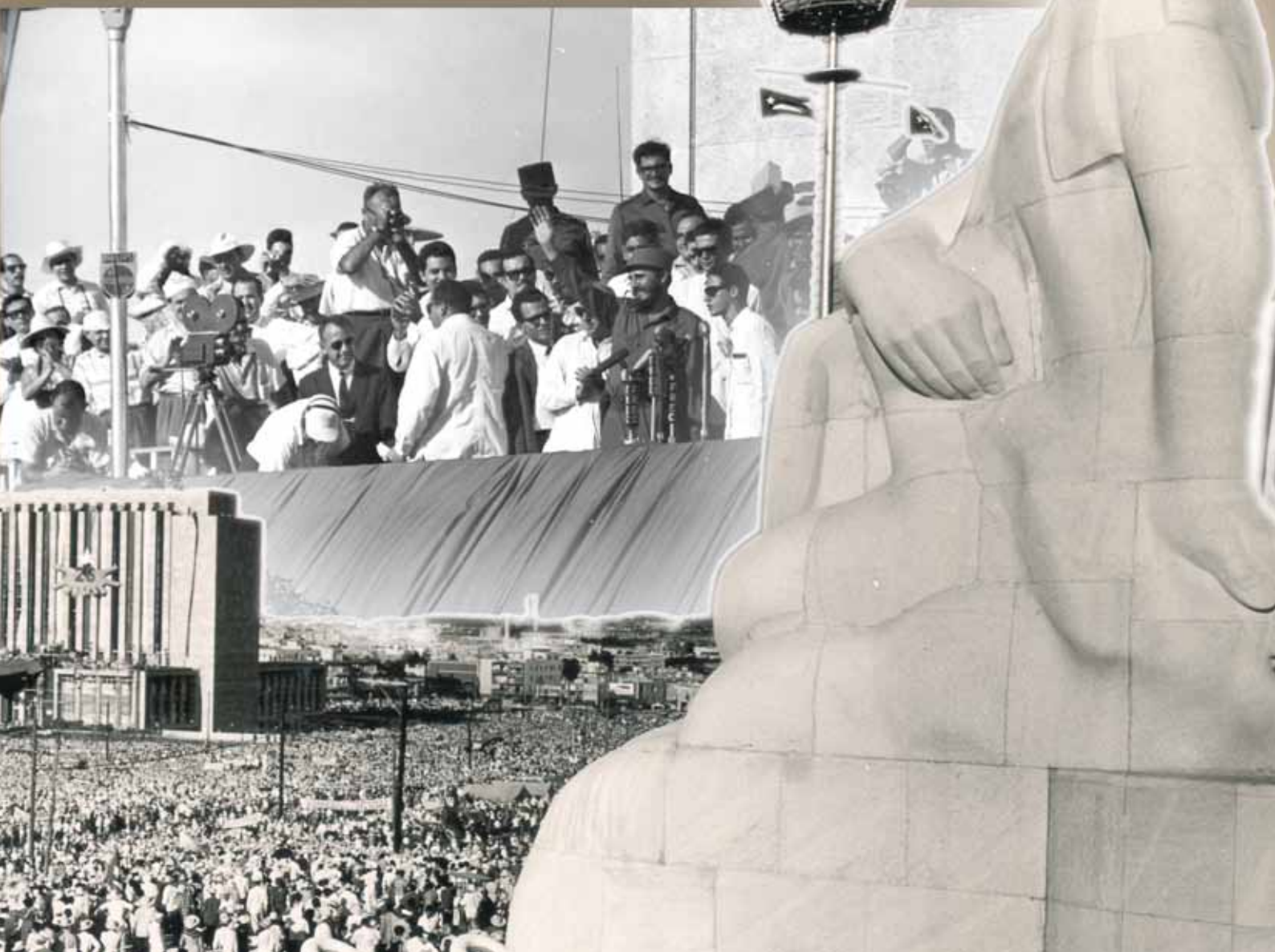
Over a million people gathered at
The Civic Plaza.

At 4:00 p.m., they rallied in front of an spontaneous tribune at the terrace of the National Library and

surrounding areas. Through streets that joined in that place, thousands and thousands of people, on foot or different vehicles, marched to listen to their leader, the voice of the Revolution, Dr. Fidel Castro.

The gathering initially announced as a countrymen rally, turned into a national demonstration of support for the Agrarian Revolution because the contribution of the working class and that of other sectors of the nation to the rally were obvious. A lot of representations from different trade unions and federations of the countrymen arm walk to that place, cheering the Agrarian Reform and to Fidel Castro. These are moments of human solidarity and of national involvement not to ever be forgotten.





President Dorticós addressed the crowd:

"...The message of the government is of hope and of optimism for we know we count on you all. But there is a cry coming from this immense crowd and from the whole people. And I want to make a direct consultation: Do you wish Dr. Fidel Castro continue heading the government or not?"

A noisy cry breaks out in the immense crowd. For some minutes clamorous hurrahs are heard, and over the mass's heads huge crowd yarey hats are waving and the machetes of countrymen glow claiming Fidel Castro appearance heading the government.

The President of the Republic ended his speech by saying:

"On this occasion, for the first time, the people command, and instruct Fidel fulfill his duty."

Fidel accepted the popular mandate and returned back to the post of Prime Minister.

THE PEOPLE'S WILL HAS BEEN FULFILLED

Fidel Castro

If any ambushed or under-cover foe had any doubt about the backing of the people for their Revolution, this rally convincingly proved that Cubans knew what we wanted and that we had already chosen our destiny.



HA SIDO CUMPLIDA LA
VOLUNTAD DEL PUEBLO
— FID
VOLUC
COMANDO DEL MOVIMIENTO
Lunes, 21 de
Guatemala

1960

May Day

**Cuba, next to
Fidel,
vibrated in the
ever-greatest
May Day
celebration**



The huge esplanade surrounded by the buildings of the Palace of Justice, the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA), the National Institute of Saving and Housing (INAV), the National Library, the Ministry of Communications, the Court of Constitutional Warranties and the new National Theater was not big enough to house the human avalanche that gathered early in the morning over the Civic Plaza.



Today, workers have not brou

That was May Day all about, a chance for workers march carrying posters with some hope to meet their demands and, so, in the end those May Days were a farce for workers who had to carry the same posters, with the same demands, year after year.

Fidel Castro Ruz



ght a single demand.



Next, a contingent of children who were wearing gray-color uniforms are passing by. They are kids from a branch of the Ministry of Social Welfare. The group heading the contingent carries a poster of Camilo Cienfuegos. This is a moment of intense excitement. The crowd remembers the brave Commander of the Invasion to Las Villas, and gives him homage of true tenderness, with hurrahs and applauses.



In Cuba, homeless kids, bootblacks, those selling newspapers and lottery bills, and the ones begging for money at the entrance of shops and churches were over.



A curious fact drew everybody's attention: prisoners from Castillo del Príncipe in a crowd of blue uniforms occupy roofs and sidewalks of the prison to see the parade.





If Yankees land in Cuba...!

The Venezuelan representation, spreading the flag of Bolivar's land, approaches the tribune. They are mainly students, though workers and countrymen are also present. They stop in front of the tribune and sing the Venezuelan anthem. Cubans stand up and once again we feel like brothers of that great people that, in a distant past provided help to Martí and, in the recent past to Fidel. And now they feel the Cuban Revolution like theirs. They are invited to join the tribune and, still stood, repeat:

Cuba, Yes, Yankees No! If Yankees land in Cuba, not even a single drop of oil for them!



Following graduates from the Military Academy at Minas del Frio. These are men who have been going through a test of strict training in the mountains.

Following, the cadets of the Academy of Aviation, and members of the Red Cross with the whole modern equipment.



The parade goes on. Following, the Women Corps of the Revolutionary National Police, and a section of standards-bearers of motorists, who were covering the area of parade.

The days of the threatening and criminal patrol cars that, in packs, launched to kill defenseless people, are far behind!

The members of the Revolutionary National Police, Traffic Section, are on parade.



A representative group of the Marines and Maritime Police, as such, heads a column of the Revolutionary Navy.



Presence of early members of the Rebel Army is tenderly saluted. And an armored division, artillery trucks, tanks, small tanks, jeeps, and trucks parade showing the world that these weapons are now to defend the liberty and sovereignty of the threatened homeland.

That popular claim
**"WE ASK FOR
MILITARY
INSTRUCTION"**
HAS BEEN FULFILLED.



Just a few months ago there was no single working or country militiawoman who was organized in our country. The motto was just born on October the 26th during the rally held for the air raid.

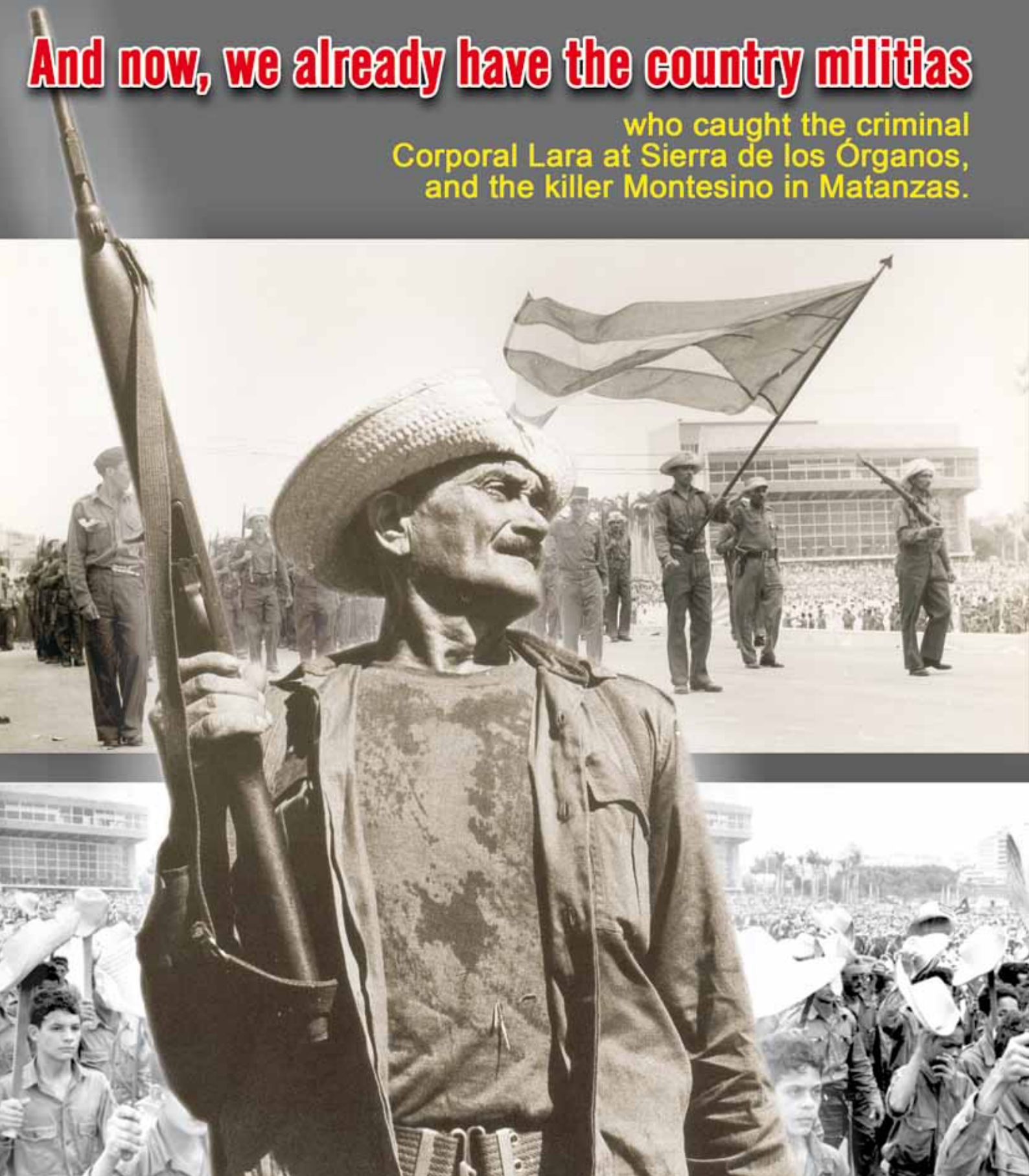
Fidel Castro





And now, we already have the country militias

who caught the criminal
Corporal Lara at Sierra de los Órganos,
and the killer Montesino in Matanzas.



WHAT HAS CAUSED OUR PEOPLE CREATE MILITIAS AND TRAIN IN THE USE OF WEAPONS? WHAT HAS MADE CUBANS BECOME AN SPARTAN PEOPLE?

THE FACT IS THAT THE HOMELAND IS IN DANGER, THE FACT IS THAT THE HOMELAND IS THREATENED

Fidel Castro



They carry yarey hats on, like our mambises, blue working pants and a machete they strike to every cry of Homeland or Death! They show in their faces the unavoidable decision to give everything for the homeland.



In the afternoon, at five, the parade is over and hundreds of white pigeons are released to spread their wings and they fly over the head of that great people's mass. And with their flying around the tribune, they seem welcoming the message that the Chief of the Revolution and leader of the whole nation, Fidel Castro, will address to the people.

This people had to suffer, for seven years, the cry of pain of those who were tortured. And today everybody knows that torturers and criminals are paying for their crimes.

Million of Cubans who could not read and write in our homeland, hundred of children who died with no medical care or who had to suffer humiliations for being poor, illiterate, black (cries) or women.

The Cuban people could never be more aware, as today, about their own strength. And this endless river of columns, marching forward for hours, has been necessary for them understand. And this must be a great lesson for us.

WEAPONS ARE COMING SOON!

Soldier! Militiaman!

Workers! Countrymen!

Raise our rifles!

Raise our machetes!

Raise our Cuban flags to swear we will fulfill our motto of

Homeland or Death





THE NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE OF CUBA PASSES THE FIRST DECLARATION OF HAVANA

September 2, 1960

The greatest popular rally, ever remembered in the history of Cuban nation, happens at the Civic Plaza. A million citizens was estimated.

Responding OAS was all about, for there the nephastous Declaration of Costa Rica was passed, in which chancellors of the area, in a position of interference and obedience to the U.S. government, condemned Cuba for accepting assistance from the USSR and the Popular Republic of China, and for establishing diplomatic relations with the latter.





On August the 22nd, the 7th Meeting of OAS Foreign Ministers had started to judge Cuba for accepting extra-continental assistance. When condemn over Cuba was to be evident, the Cuban Foreign Minister, Raúl Roa made the decision of withdrawing from the meeting, cataloguing those who met there as cowards. When assessing the honorable and brave posture of Dr. Raúl Roa, the Costa Rican journalist, Mario Ramírez baptized Roa as the Foreign Minister of Dignity, a degree that would accompany him until his very last days.

In response to a question of such a journalist, concerning the OAS meeting, Roa only responded: "Mario, the only thing I can tell you is the following: the Agrarian Reform has been an overwhelming success." The journalist was astonished, without understanding the meaning of those words, a moment Roa took advantage of to launch one of his peculiar expressions: "this has been such a success that Cuba is exporting eggs worldwide."



THE REVOLUTION OPPOSED THE DECLARATION OF HAVANA TO THE DECLARATION OF SAN JOSÉ.

The National General Assembly of the People of Cuba condemns, in all its terms, the so-called: "Declaration of San José de Costa Rica" a document imposed by the US imperialism, which attempts against the national self-determination, the sovereignty and the dignity of fraternal peoples of the Hemisphere.

Once the National General Assembly was consulted, it passed the Declaration, which condemned the extensive land property in hands of a single person, exploitation of human work, illiteracy, disparity of women, unprotected old people, concession of natural resources to foreign monopolies, and to military and political oligarchies. The Declaration proclaimed the rights from countrymen to work the land, of labors to benefits from their work, of children to education access, of sick people to medical assistance and care...



...SO WAS THE FIRST DECLARATION OF HAVANA.





Presencia en las realidades que la Revolución ha con-
seguido, el cubano confía...



Una correcta definición de la CúA es escuchada en
la Asamblea General del Pueblo.



La alianza, consciente de que se lucha por su mejor
porvenir, dice también presente...



Mirando el porvenir, que sabe es suyo, el
hombre típicamente ataviado.

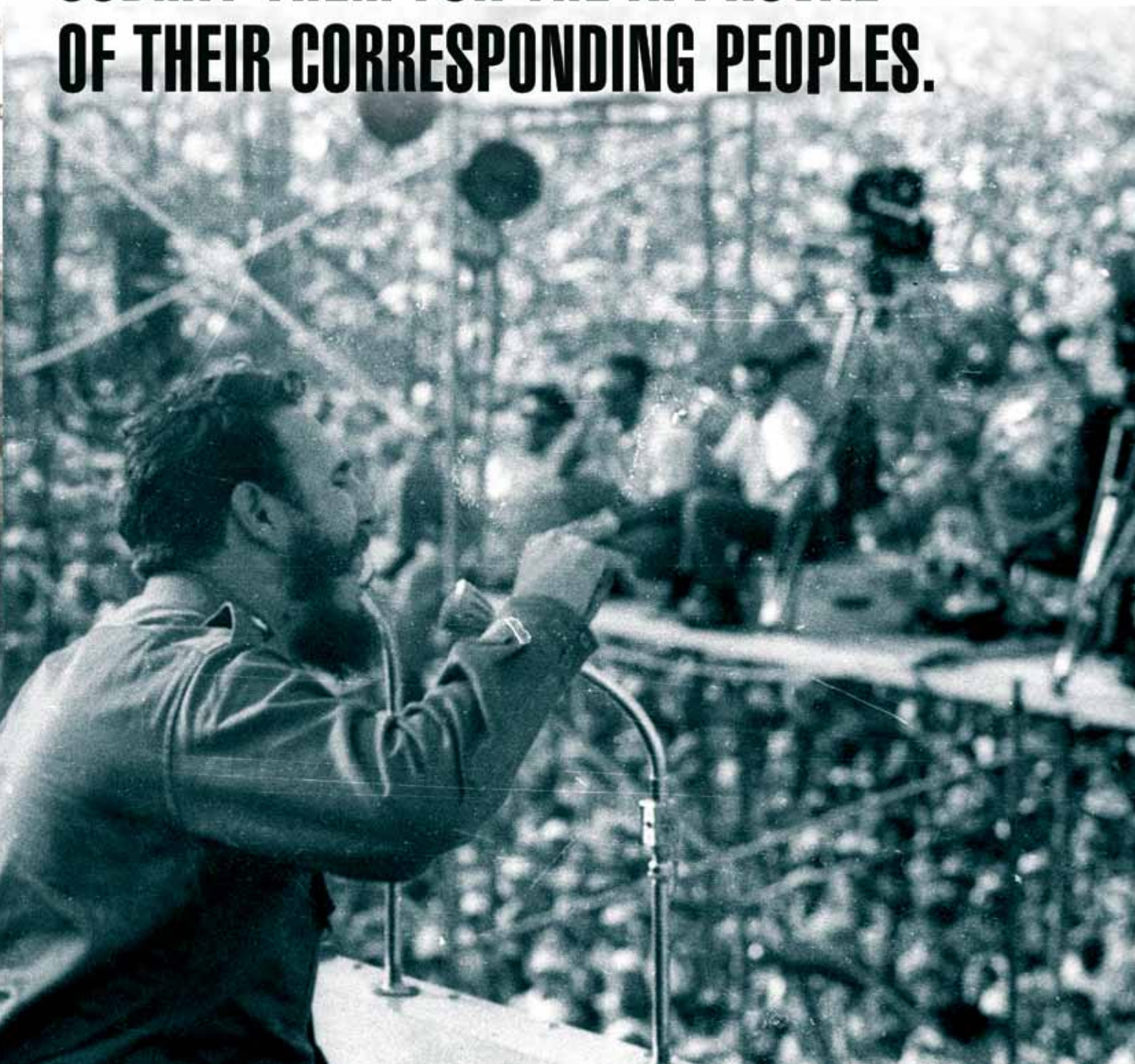
ACORDADA POR EL PUEBLO LA DECLARACION DE LA HABANA

- Rompe la Declaración Imperialista de Costa Rica
- Acepta la ayuda de la U.R.S.S. y China Popular
- Anula el Tratado Militar con los Estados Unidos
- Acuerda relaciones diplomáticas con China
- Respalda el derecho de América a la Revolución
- Apoya el millón de peruanos en la Fiebre Cívica

REVOLUCION
 ORLANDO BEL
 MIENZO DE LA
 Director
 CARLOS FRA
 Subdirector
 EUCLES VA
 CADEL
 Abogado
 VICENTE BA
 Director
 ITHEL LE
 Director de "La
 Revolucion"
 Colaboradores
 JORGE C
 JORGE C



**IF THEY WANT US ACCEPT COSTA RICA AGREEMENTS,
SUBMIT THEM FOR THE APPROVAL
OF THEIR CORRESPONDING PEOPLES.**



**DOLLARS CAN DO NOTHING
AGAINST THE CUBAN DIGNITY
WITH NO SARDINES OR JAWS,
WE SHALL
OVERCOME!**

*Sin O.E.A.
¡Venceremos!
PATRIA O MUERTE
ASS. ESTUDIANTES
S. Bastea "Calixto Jureia"*

*Roa Cancellero de la dignidad
O.E.A. = Ali Baba y sus
ladrones
"CUBA si YANKIS no"
Ass. Estudiantes
S.B.*

THOSE WHO



COME WILL DIE!

We have an agreement, already signed with the then Minister of State, Mr. Aureliano Sánchez Arango. This agreement is called... (Cries: **IT WAS CALLED!**) It was called, anyway...! Bilateral Agreement of Military Assistance between Cuba and the United States of America! This is the agreement between jaw and sardines. Of course....we will submit the maintenance or abortion of this military agreement to the people's consideration. (Cries: **REVOKE IT!**) That is, those who agree aborting this military agreement right now, please raise your hands. (THE CROWD RAISES THE HAND!) That is, according to the sovereign will of the people of Cuba the Military Agreement between Cuba and the United States of America, which so much bloodshed cost for us, is ended. (Applauses and cries: **BURN IT!**) No, we are not going to burn it, but keep it for history, torn down as it is.





WHY

**did the United States government want
Cuba not to arm?**



Six months ago, March 17, 1960, the US President Dwight Eisenhower had signed a secret memo containing the directions for the overthrow of the revolutionary government. And six months later the Declaration of Havana, April 17, 1961, the Bay of Pigs Invasion—of the 2506 Brigade, organized by the US government—, took place. Most part of weapons the militia used was purchased in the Bloc.



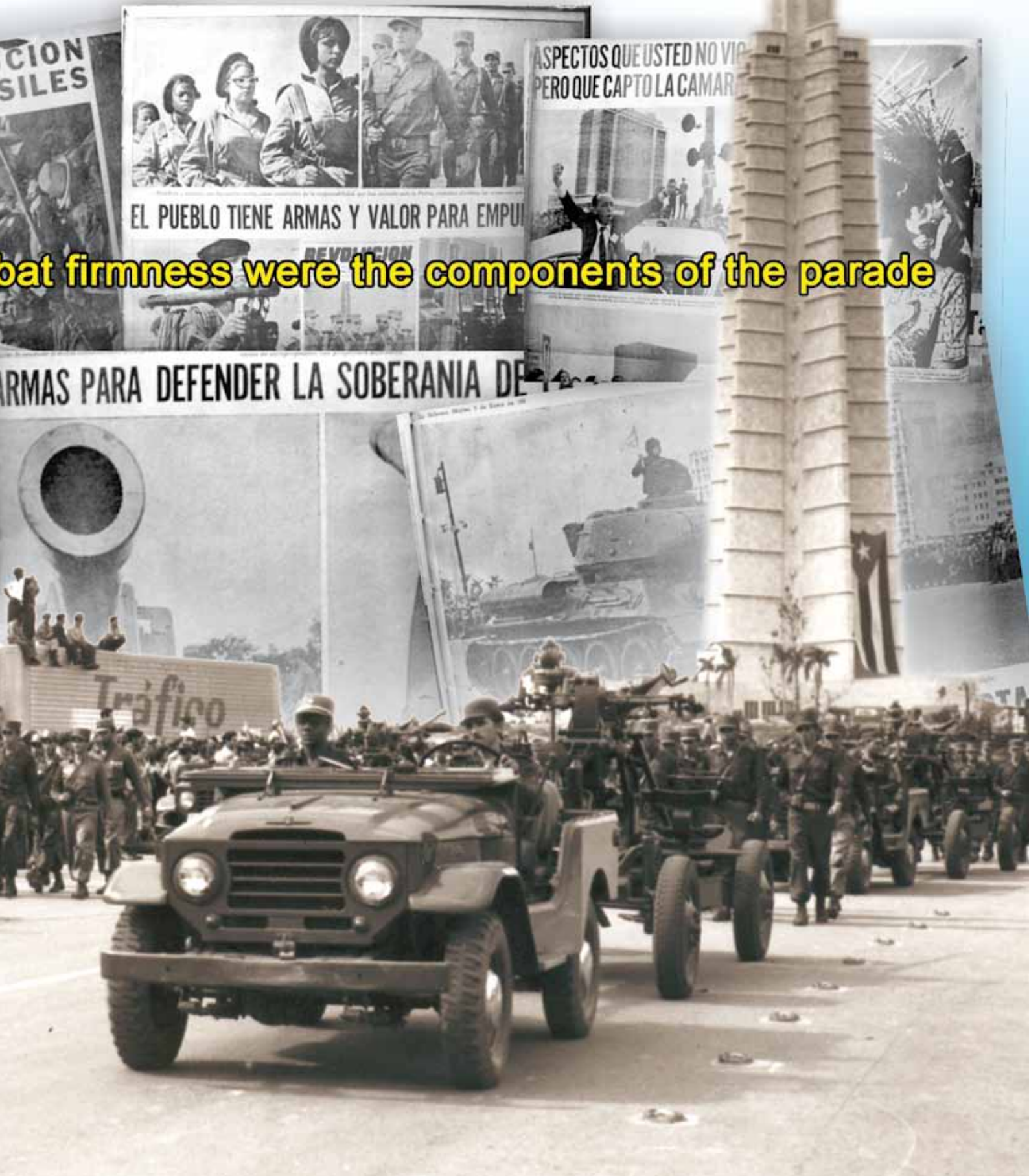


JANUARY 2, the 1961 SPLENDID MILITARY PARADE AND POPULAR RALLY

Deployment of military capabilities and of the combat
at the Civic Plaza

From first thing in the morning, precise mottoes of the revolutionary moment: abolishing illiteracy this year, making production and productivity grow, defending the national sovereignty at any cost, and giving the heaviest punishment to killers and counterrevolutionary saboteurs were broadcast over the loudspeakers.





ACION
SILES



EL PUEBLO TIENE ARMAS Y VALOR PARA EMPU

ASPECTOS QUE USTED NO VIO
PERO QUE CAPTO LA CAMARA



bat firmness were the components of the parade

ARMAS PARA DEFENDER LA SOBERANIA DE



Tráfico

The giant parade of the people in uniforms and defense troops started at 11:30 a.m. Commanders Juan Almeida and William Galvez, in a convertible car and heading the parade, militarily saluted Prime Minister Fidel Castro and President Osvaldo Dorticós, as they were passing by the tribune.

Twenty-one rounds of artillery to salute for the 2nd Anniversary of the triumph of our Revolution, and following the tunes of our National Anthem were heard.





THE REVOLUTION WAS DELIVERING THE PEOPLE WEAPONS

Over 1,000 men of the Working Brigades, all armed with Chinese bazookas, who had gone up the Turquino Peak, were the first ones on parading.



**"The people are much stronger than any oligarchy."
"For those of us who defend a just cause
Defeat does not exist!"**

Fidel





Following, voluntary male-and-female teachers, carrying machineguns and well organized, were on parade. They will make Fidel's announcement to turn Cuba into the first country in The Americas end with illiteracy in few months come true.



Next, militiamen, countrymen and workers, making up combined battalions, were on parade.



WEAPONS FROM THE SOCIALISTS THE FIRST TIME



37-mm
Antiaircraft
Guns



120-mm Mortars



ST BLOC WERE ON PARADE FOR

85 mm Guns



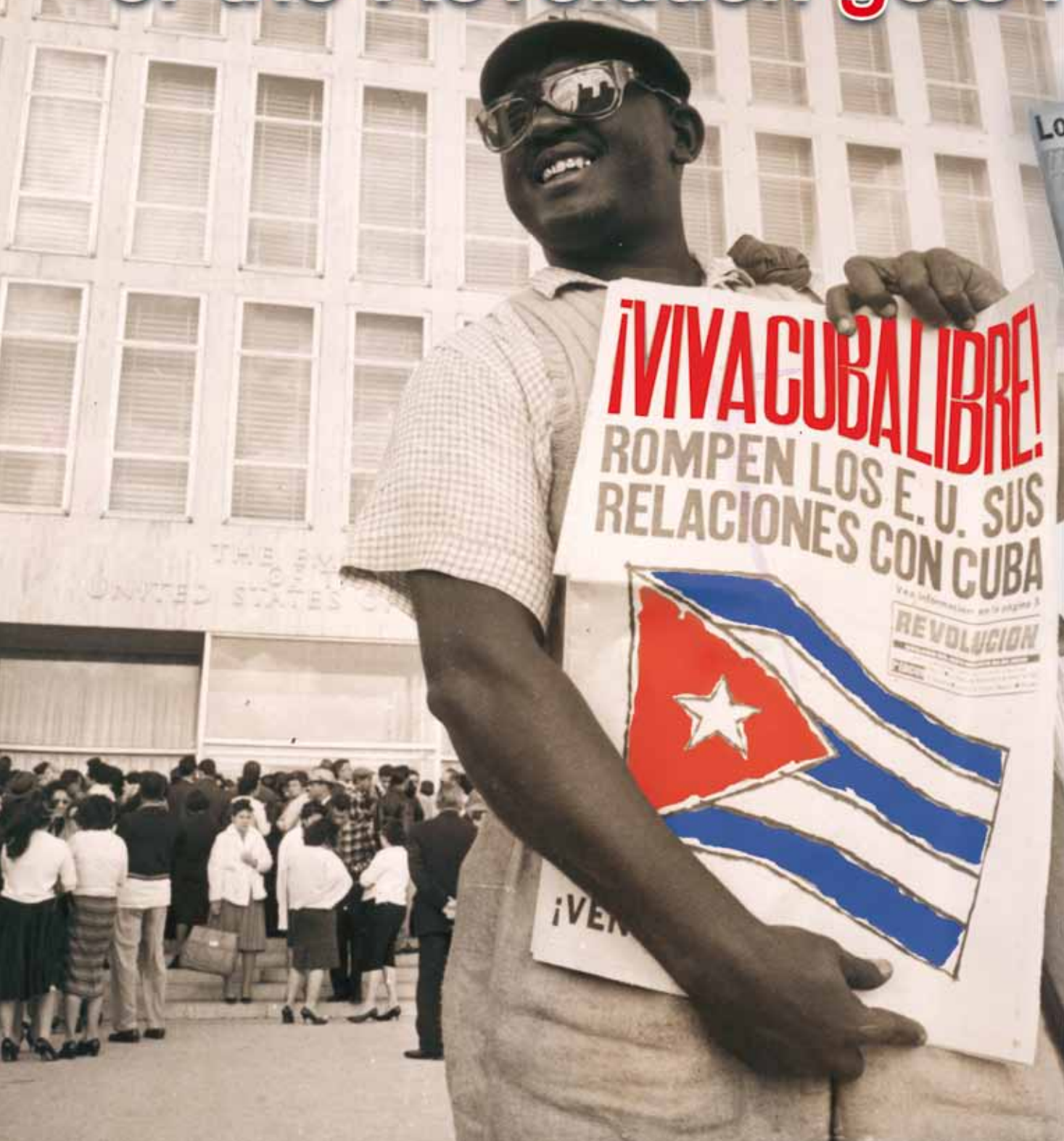
T-34 Powerful
tanks



The Revolution has been patient for so long, the Revolution has permitted that a plague of intelligence agents, under the disguise of diplomatic authorities of the US embassy have been here conspiring and promoting terrorism, but the Revolutionary Government has made the decision that in less than 48 hours the US embassy does not have more staff than that we have in the USA...(He is interrupted by a prolonged acclamation) Excuse me...excuse me.... excuse me, let me finish the idea. The fact that we had established an order in expression has been good to discover the wishes of the people. We were not going to say all the staff, but not a single one more than the number of the staff we have in the United States of America. And they are 11 in our staff. And these misters have more than 300, of out of which the 80% are spies...(Cries of Yankees Go Home...) if they all want to go home, then go home. (cries of ¡Cuba sí, yanquis no!...¡Pin pon fuera, abajo la gusanera! [Out! Out! Get out! Down the worms, out!])

...They were using the embassy to introduce conspiring agents...they have been conducting terrorist actions under the protection of diplomatic immunity. The Revolutionary Government, therefore, adopts the position expressed right now. We do not break relations with them, but if they want to go home, then, farewell!

...There is no choice: the counterrevolution
or the Revolution gets rid of you



Evolution gets rid of the Revolution, of the counterrevolution

...s del tío Sam... que se vayan Los



VIVA LA REVOLUCION!

EU. CULPABLE DE LA RUPTURA

REVOLUCION

yanquis corren; sus "amigos"



¡QUE SE VAYAN SI QUIEREN!

IRSE: LES DAMOS 48 HORAS!

PLAZO A LA EMBAJADA YANQUI PARA DEJAR SOLAMENTE 11 FUNCIONARIOS

VIVA CUBA LIBRE!

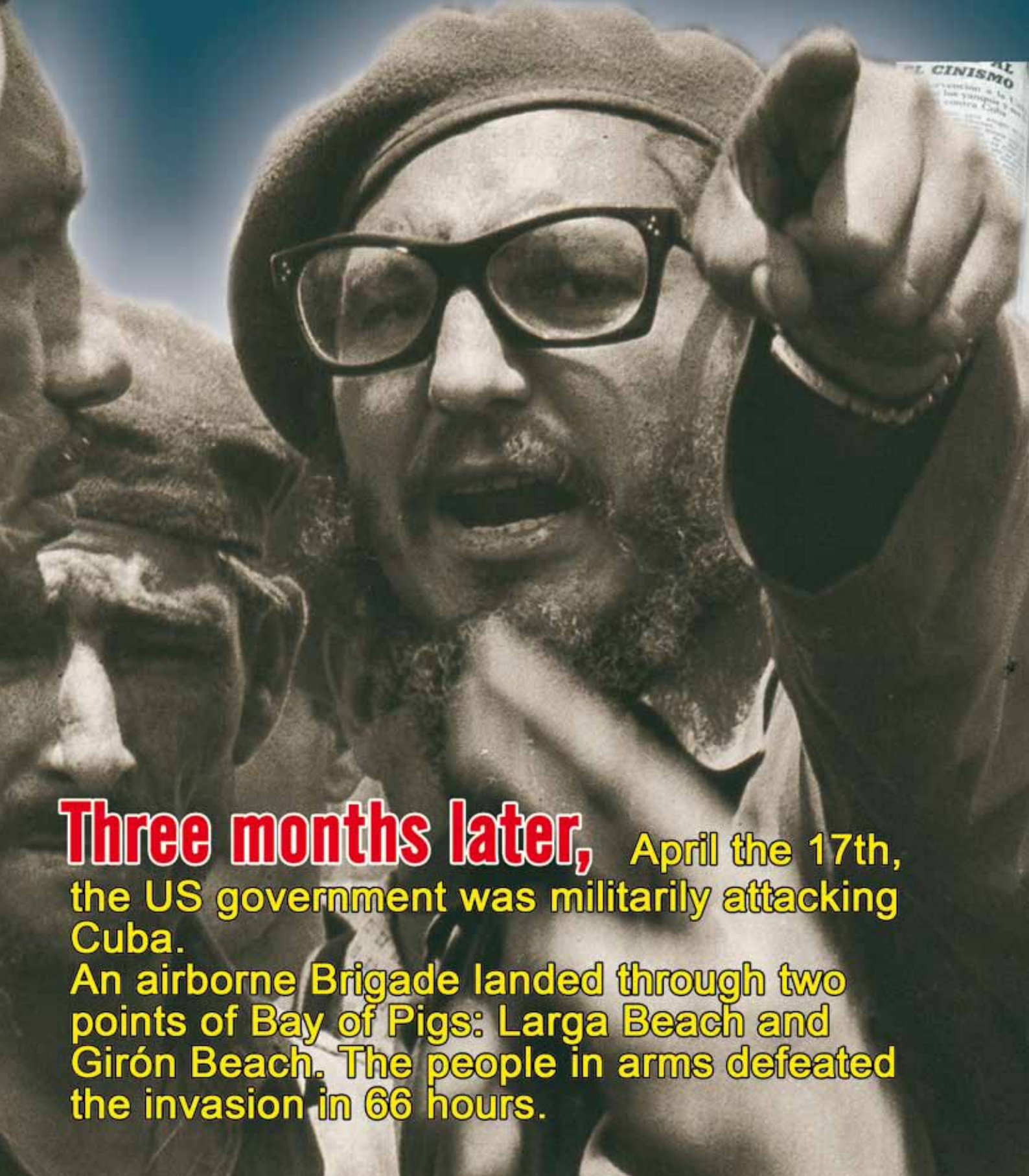
ROMPEN LOS E. U. SU RELACIONES CON CUBA

Veá información en la REVOLUCION

CONSUMAN LOS YANQUIS AGRESION DIPLOMATICA

Retira Cuba sus representantes





Three months later, April the 17th,
the US government was militarily attacking
Cuba.
An airborne Brigade landed through two
points of Bay of Pigs: Larga Beach and
Girón Beach. The people in arms defeated
the invasion in 66 hours.

Fusilados Sorí Marín, Eufemio Fernández y 7 más

LIQUIDADA LA INVASION

Aplastante derrota del enemigo

EVOLUCION

NUMERO 26 DE JULIO

Se publica con el consentimiento del gobierno
Havana, Jueves, 26 de Abril de 1961
Director: [illegible]

OCUPAN TANQUES PESADOS YANQUIS SHERMAN Y ARMAS

FILICIAS REVOLUCIONARIAS
FRUTO DE LOS ENEMIGOS



THE MUNICIPALITY COMMISSIONER OF HAVANA, JOSE A. NARANJO, JUST PASSED RESOLUTION No. 151 BY WHICH THE CIVIC PLAZA IS RENAMED REVOLUTION PLAZA

Whereas:

The so-called Civic Plaza has turned into a great amphitheater of the Revolution where the people periodically gathers to express their voluntary cohesion and firm backing to the great, democratic, and socialist Revolution.

Whereas:

In this Plaza the great General Assembly of the People took place that approved the historical Declaration of Havana, containing the program of the Revolution in its progress and development of new improving stages of social progress, expressing not only the top aspirations of our people, but also of brother peoples that still suffer in our Hemisphere that domestic oppression and exploitation of men by men.

Whereas:

It is appropriate to turn this Plaza into a symbol of everything that our great Revolution means and, at the same time, give homage to our martyrs and heroes of the war of independence in the past century, represented all by the glorious name of José Martí, and linking this homage with the memory of the heroes and martyrs of our present revolutionary fights.



Therefore:

Exercising the attributes conferred on me and sure to interpret the loyal feeling of the whole people of Havana, I resolve:

First: Disposing that the well-known Civic Plaza be renamed onwards José Martí REVOLUTION PLAZA.

Second: Disposing that every required communication and dispatch be issued for the appropriate fulfillment of what has been disposed in the present resolution, to be released in the Municipal Bulletin for general knowledge.

Municipal Palace of Havana, Cuba, Free Territory of the Americas,
July 17, 1961.

"Year of Education"
José A. Naranjo Morales
Municipal Commissioner

July 25-26, 1961

The Revolution Plaza

welcomes the first man who went into the outer

YURI GAGARIN

Shortly after 9:30 a.m., the high authority of the Revolution, Commander Fidel Castro, the President of the Republic, Dr. Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado, and the honor guest of our country, the cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, reached the presidential podium.





The sport parade started at 9:30 a.m., and 70,000 athletes coming from different revolutionary organizations nationwide were involved, including massive rhythmic gymnastic performances as were never ever presented to the honorable guest, Yuri Gagarin, and to the other foreign visitors.



VICTORIOUS SPORT PERFORMANCE OF THE PEOPLE



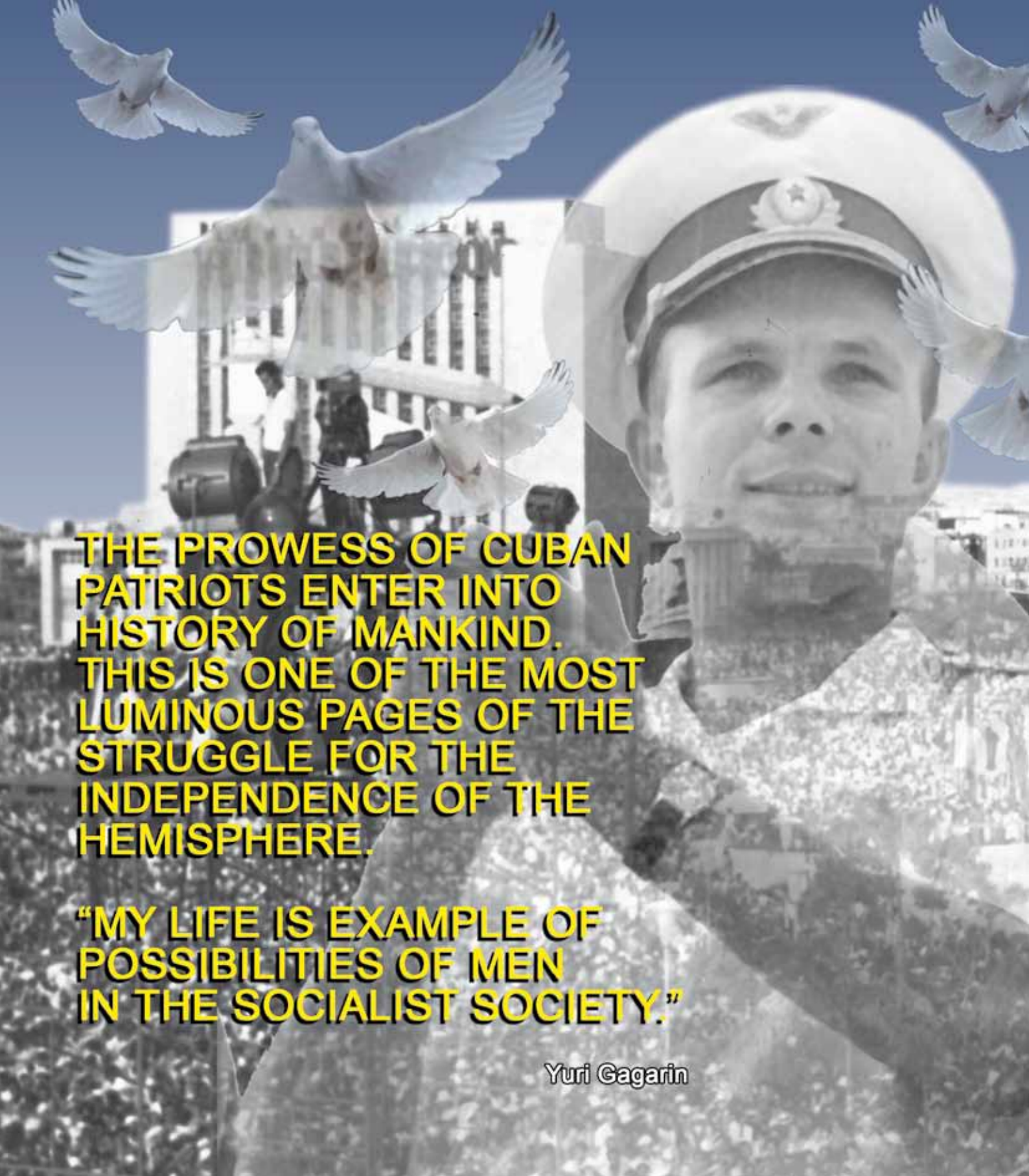
The following day, July the 26th, 4:35 p.m., the ceremony and rally began, accompanied by the tunes of the National Anthem.

Before the huge crowd filling the entire Plaza and its far distant corners, the President of the Republic, Dr. Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado, decorated the first cosmonaut of the world, Yuri Gagarin, with the Playa Girón Order, recently created. Yuri Gagarin spoke to the Cuban people who applauded him with joy.



THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, INTERPRETING THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE, CONSIDERED THAT YOU, COMMANDER YURI GAGARIN, WHEN CARRYING OUT SUCH A HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT, WHICH CONSECRATES YOU AS THE FIRST COSMONAUT WORLDWIDE, HAVE CONTRIBUTED WITH EXEMPLARY HEROISM TO SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS OF MANKIND AND OF PEACE, AND ACCORDED TO GRANT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO YOU, OUR HIGHEST PRESENT DECORATION, THE PLAYA GIRÓN ORDER.





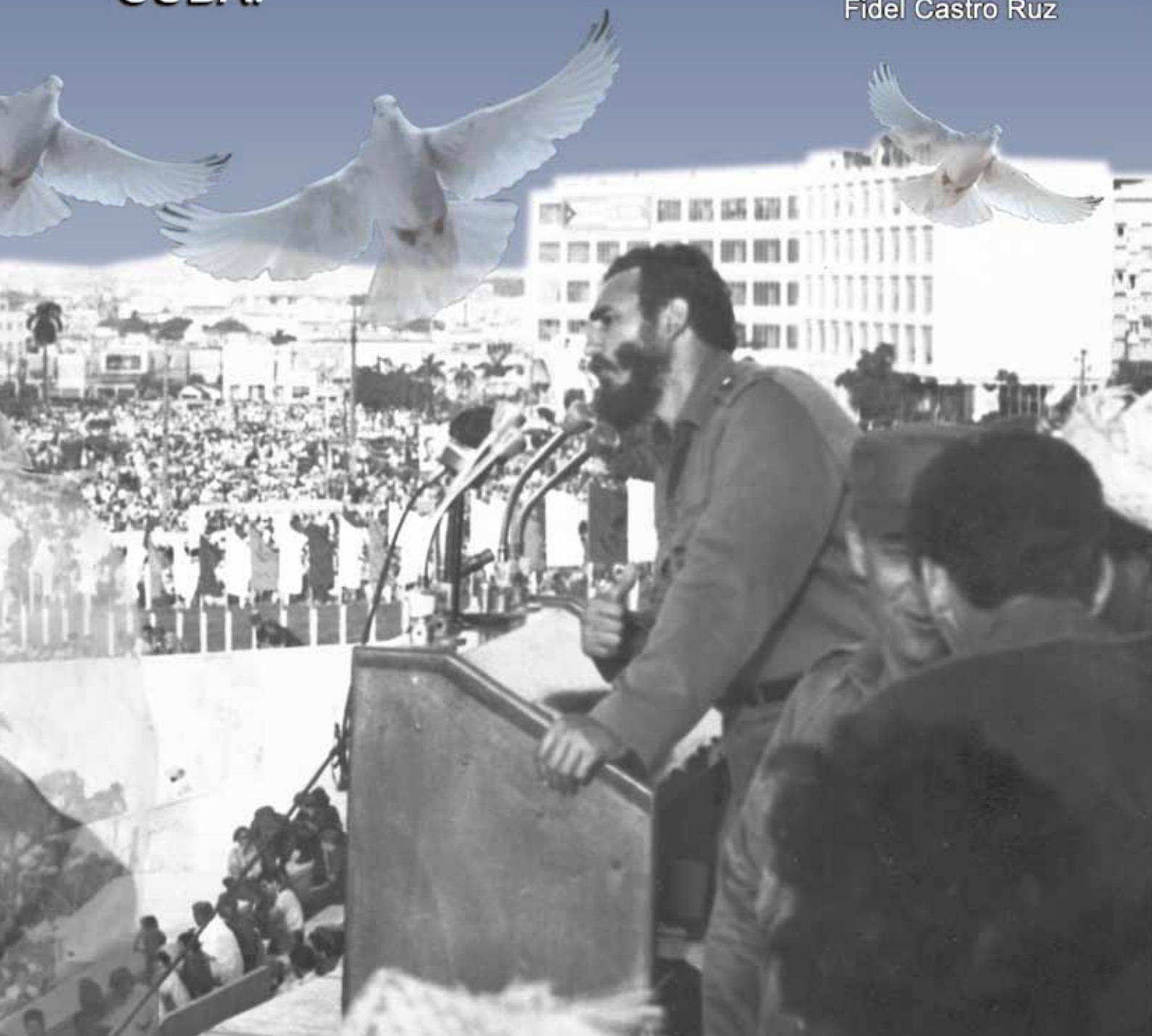
**THE PROWESS OF CUBAN
PATRIOTS ENTER INTO
HISTORY OF MANKIND.
THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST
LUMINOUS PAGES OF THE
STRUGGLE FOR THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE
HEMISPHERE.**

**"MY LIFE IS EXAMPLE OF
POSSIBILITIES OF MEN
IN THE SOCIALIST SOCIETY."**

Yuri Gagarin

EVERY DAY, THE REVOLUTION WILL BE
STRONGER AND MORE INVINCIBLE...WE
MARCH TOWARDS THE UNITED PARTY
OF THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION OF
CUBA.

Fidel Castro Ruz



December 22, 1961, Cuba is declared

THE REVOLUTION

Plaza

CELEBRATES WITH JOY



Free Territory of Illiteracy



TO DE ALFABETIZADORES
L MUNDO LO FELICITAN
AJR

The new thing that 1961 brought was to turning the struggle for teaching all Cubans to read and write into a prowess of organized masses, which covered every corner of the Archipelago and whose task forces were the "Conrado Benítez" Literacy Brigades, consisting of 1,000 young students.





The "Conrado Benítez" name was taken in homage of the black teacher killed by counterrevolutionary bands in the mountains of the central part of the country.



DECALOG

1-Honraremos a Cuba, a los campesinos más a tra en la consigna m gun mártir muere en lidos se pierden

2-Nuestra conducta vada moral y de cionaría que re gión del anafab

3-Nos integrare petuosos, a la nuestros hun

4-Respetare los postul ra merec gadistas

5-Cultiva la ba



EJERCITO DE ALFABETIZADORAS
BRIGADAS
CONRADO BENITEZ

Brigadista: ELAM MANUEL MENENDEZ MEROCA

Batallón No. _____

Domicilio: Norte No. 13,916. Guanabacoa

Heb. No. 54347

CALLE No. ENTRE TELEF:

COORDINADOR NACIONAL

COMISION NACIONAL DE ALFABETIZACION

GO DEL BRIGADISTA

6- Estamos obligados a ser disciplinados y a emplear bien nuestro tiempo en el estudio y el trabajo con los campesinos.

7- Ofrecemos a través de nuestra labor la oportunidad de conocer las grandes conquistas sociales y políticas de nuestra revolución libertadora.

8- Como jóvenes revolucionarios estamos obligados a ser responsables de cada uno de nuestros actos y a ser dignos de los que trazaron el camino de la libertad con su sacrificio.

9- No abandonaremos la tarea por grandes que sean las privaciones, las dificultades y los sacrificios. Un brigadista Conrado Benítez jamás será un desertor.

10- Trabajaremos afanosos y seguros de que la vida del campo nos dará su hermosa experiencia para ser al final y al regreso mejores estudiantes y revolucionarios más conscientes.

será de una alta capacidad revolucionaria la que creemos.

mos cordiales y resistentes a los cambios de vida y costumbres de los campesinos.

nos y haremos responsables de la revolución por el honor del título de Brigadista de la Alfabetización.

remos el compañerismo sobre la fraternidad revolucionaria y el trabajo en común y con la convicción de hombres libres.



"YOU WILL TEACH, BUT, WHILE TEACHING, YOU WILL ALSO LEARN. YOU WILL LEARN MUCH MORE THAN WHAT YOU TEACH, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TEACH...FOR YOU WILL TEACH OTHERS WHAT YOU LEARNED AT SCHOOL, FOR THOSE OTHERS WILL TEACH YOU WHAT THEY LEARNED FROM THE HARD LIFE THAT HAVE LIVED SO FAR; THEY WILL TEACH YOU THE REASON OF THE REVOLUTION, BETTER THAN ANY OTHER SPEECH, BETTER THAN ANY OTHER BOOK."

Fidel Castro
Speech to "Conrado Benítez"
Members of the Brigades and their Families,
the Mothers Day Varadero, May 14, 1961





The Cuban youth
conducted and
executed the
Literacy Campaign.
Its confidence and
creativeness
reflected a belief
that everything
was possible.



A notable fact is that the National Literacy Campaign did not stop under any circumstance. It moved forward during the days of the Bay of Pigs invasion, even when various literacy teenagers, who were teaching charcoal-makers and their relatives were imprisoned by mercenaries.



The Campaign continued in rural and mountain areas where a hard fight against banditry was fought in those months, and it intensified much more when on November the 26th of that year the literacy Brigade member Manuel Ascunce Domenech and his student Pedro Lantigua were cruelly killed at El Escambray Mountains.



DECEMBER 22, 1961

VICTORIOUS PARADE OF THE ARMY OF LITERACY BRIGADES IN THE REVOLUTION PLAZA JOSÉ MARTÍ

ILLITERACY REDUCED TO 3.9%.



This was a journey of joy and exaltation. The flag declaring before the world that Cuba was a free territory of illiteracy was hoisted to the top of the mast.





The people of Cuba proclaims to the world that Cuba is already a free territory of illiteracy.

"EVERY PEOPLE, WHEN BREAKING THE CHAINS TO SERVITUDE AND TO IMPERIALISM, ARE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE MOST UNTHINKABLE TASKS"

Fidel Castro



**FIDEL DECLARES ILLITERACY HAS COME TO
AN END IN CUBA, AS WELL AS THE END OF
FOUR CENTURIES OF IGNORANCE**



Over the half of 100,000 members of the "Conrado Benítez" Literacy Brigades were young women. The Literacy Campaign provided one of the most important ways to incorporate women to the revolutionary process.



The youngsters, inflamed with passion, repeated:
FIDEL, FIDEL,
Tell us what else must be done!
STUDYING! —Responded he.



In 1962, the Revolution granted 100,000 scholarships.

UNPRECEDENTED NEW YEAR-EVE DINNER

The REVOLUTION PLAZA has also been the scenario to celebrate the new year to come. So it happened in 1965.

THE NEW-YEAR EVE DINNER AT REVOLUTION PLAZA WAS, MAYBE, THE GREATEST ONE CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMERS EVER HELD WORLDWIDE

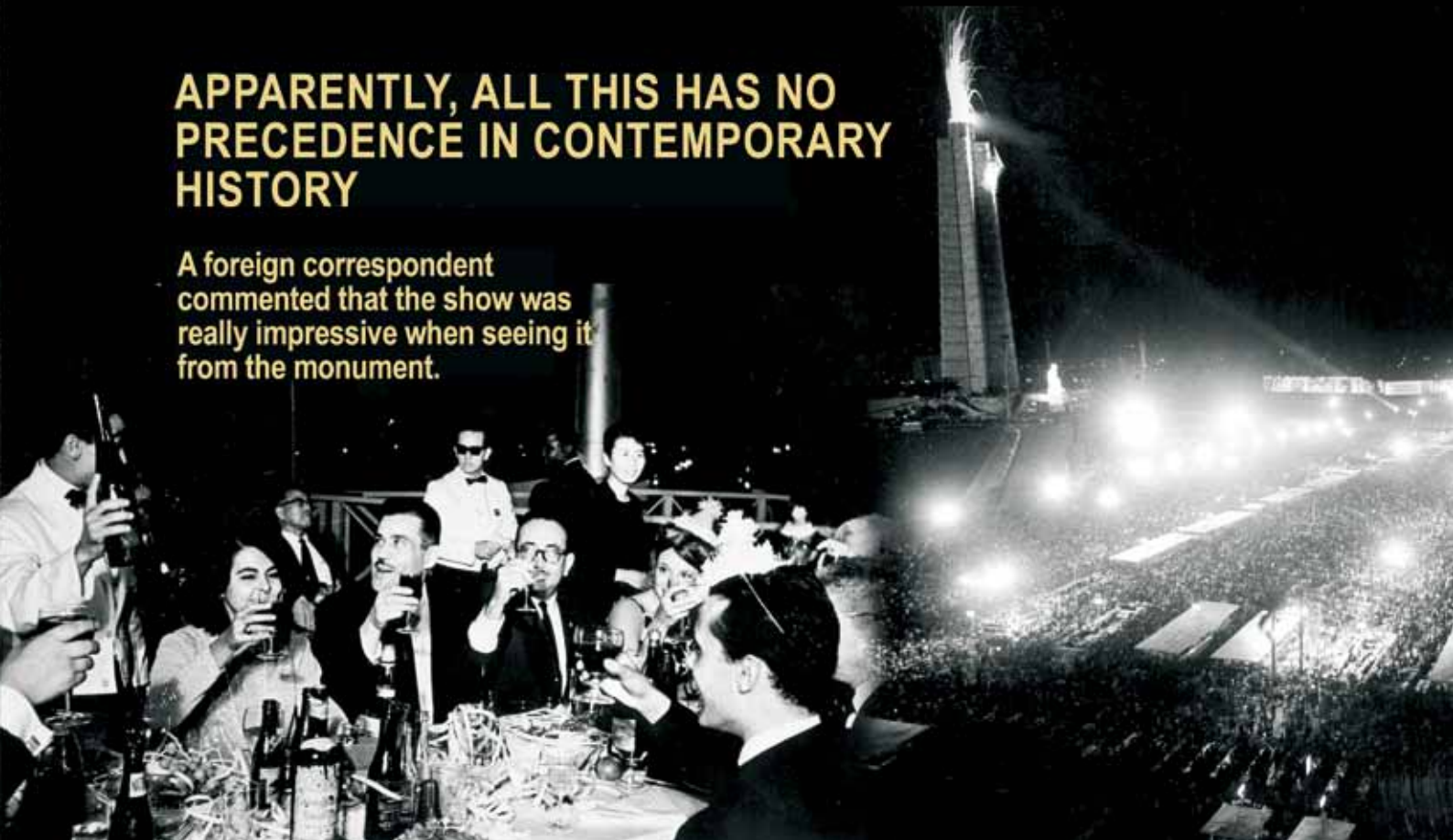


OVER 100,000 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT IN THE DINNER.



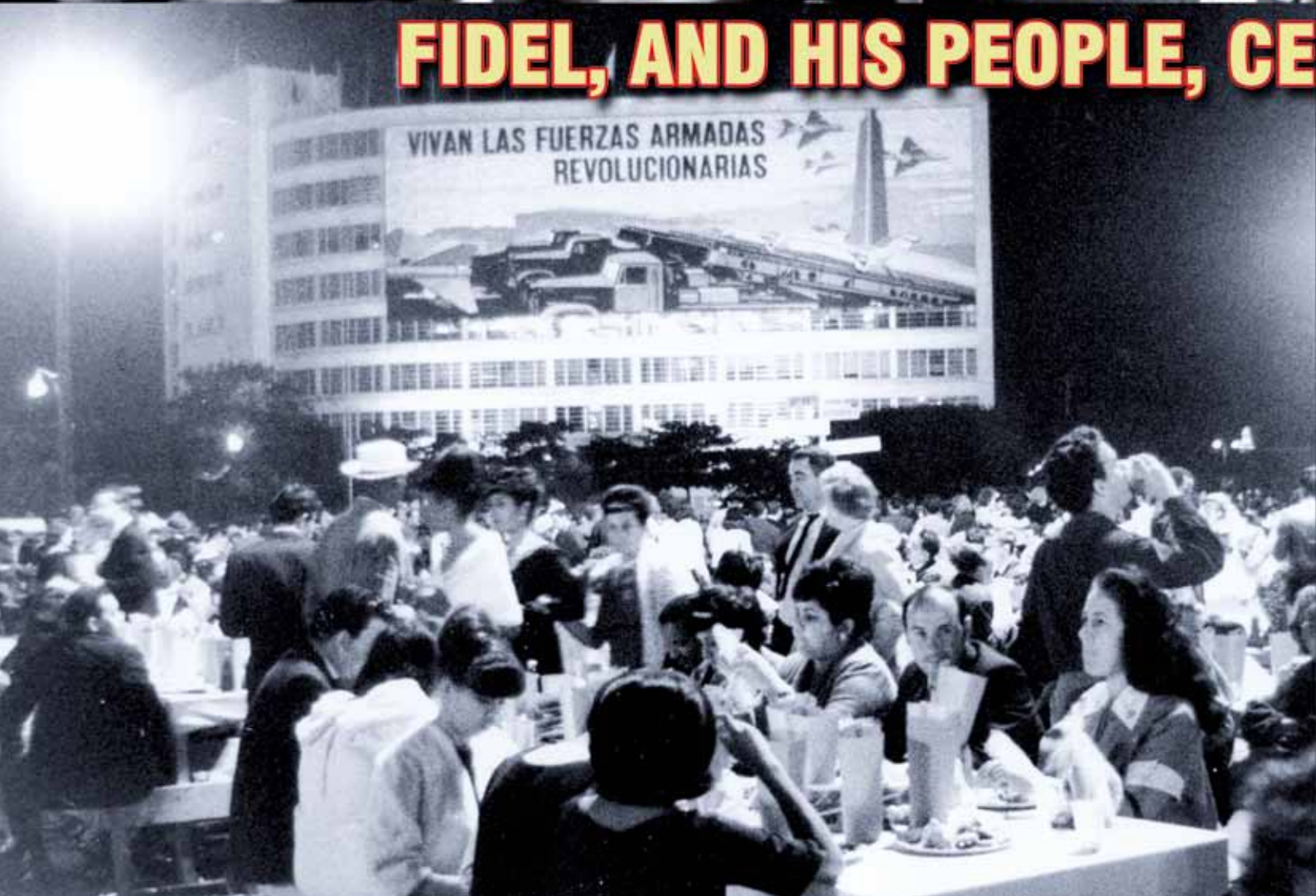
**APPARENTLY, ALL THIS HAS NO
PRECEDENCE IN CONTEMPORARY
HISTORY**

A foreign correspondent
commented that the show was
really impressive when seeing it
from the monument.





FIDEL, AND HIS PEOPLE, CE



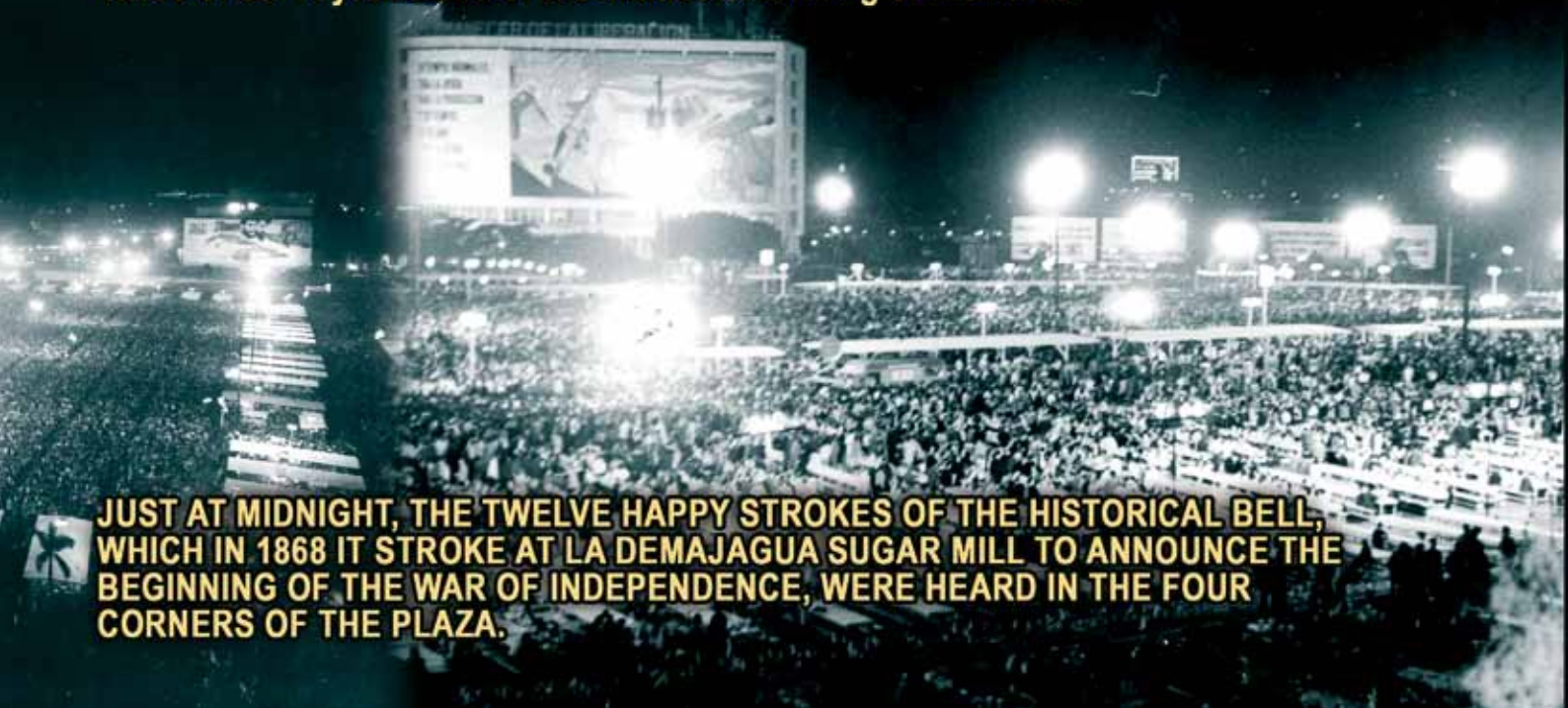


CELEBRATE THE COMING OF
1966



Dong Thi, a heroine of the fights of the Vietnamese people, together with other foreign guests, also participated in the dinner.

THE REVOLUTION PLAZA, turned into a truly human ocean, was a show never seen by any people, where leaders and people intimated into a single revolutionary embrace, to welcome another anniversary of the triumph of the Revolution, with the tunes of our rhythms and of the multicolor shining of fireworks.

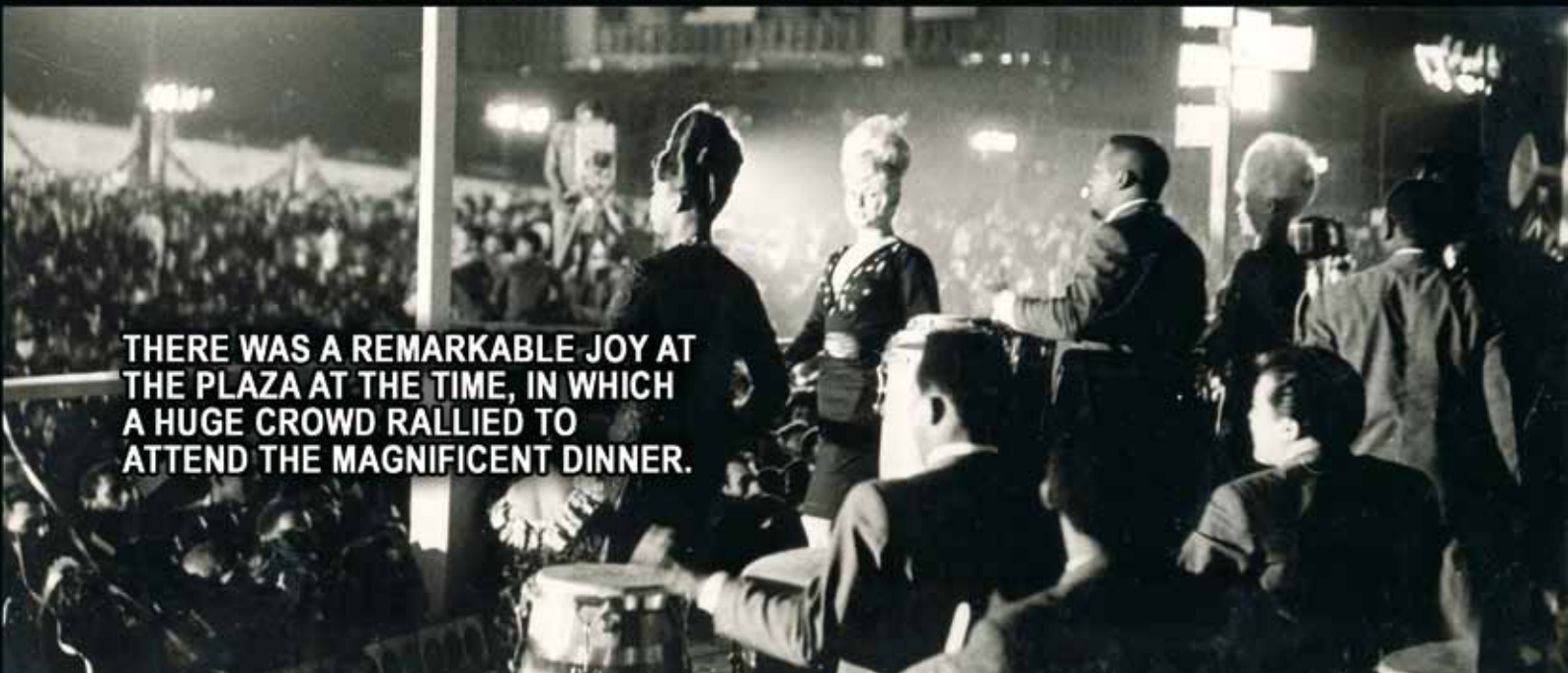


JUST AT MIDNIGHT, THE TWELVE HAPPY STROKES OF THE HISTORICAL BELL, WHICH IN 1868 IT STROKE AT LA DEMAJAGUA SUGAR MILL TO ANNOUNCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, WERE HEARD IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE PLAZA.

The people, attending with complete families, were astonished that so much could be given for only \$3,00 pesos. And this fact and that happiness of having dinner with Fidel and the other leaders were obviously expressed in the general and explosive happiness of everybody.



THE MOZAMBIQUE RHYTHM AT THE PLAZA



THERE WAS A REMARKABLE JOY AT THE PLAZA AT THE TIME, IN WHICH A HUGE CROWD RALLIED TO ATTEND THE MAGNIFICENT DINNER.

THE MOST COLOSSAL SIMULTANEOUS CHESS MATCH OF ALL TIMES!

A black and white photograph of a massive crowd gathered in Revolution Plaza at night. The plaza is filled with people, and the background shows city buildings and bright streetlights. A large banner is visible in the distance.

With the impressive and giant simultaneous chess match, held at The REVOLUTION PLAZA on November 27, 1966, the 17th World Chess Olympiad closed.

371 great masters, international masters, and experts were present. Some 300 matches were cancelled due to the rain.

A close-up photograph of several chess pieces, including a king, queen, and pawns, arranged in a row on a blue surface. The pieces are dark and polished.

6,840 chessboards: a world record

UNFORGETTABLE SHOW



The results:

Amateur players: 120 victories and 632 draws



SURPRISINGLY, PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO, WHO INVITED THE WORLD CHAMP TIGRAN PETROSIAN, SHOWED UP AT THE PLAZA. OTHER GUESTS PLAYED WITH THE GREAT MASTER.

PETROSIAN, SHOWING HIS SKILLS, WAS DEFEATING HIS OPPONENTS, ONE BY ONE, REMAINING ALONE WITH FIDEL.

AFTER ANALYZING THE MOVE, HE SET DRAWS TO PRIME MINISTER, WHO SMILING EXPLAINED: "UNDOUBTEDLY, PETROSIAN, IN ADDITION TO HIS CONDITION OF GREAT CHAMP, IS ALSO A GREAT DIPLOMAT."



MAY DAY, 1967

A special celebration

The speaker of the main speech was Commander Juan Almeida Bosque, one of the most relevant revolutionary combatants. Not only was the participant in the Attack to the



Moncada and imprisoned for these facts, but also was involved in the Granma expedition, became a hero at El Uvero combat, where he miraculously saved his own life when a foe bullet made impact in a spoon he was carrying in the pocket of his shirt at heart level. After being promoted to the rank of Commander, Fidel appointed him to open the Third Guerrilla Front in the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba City.



At the tribune, the little Aleidita Guevara March—Che Guevara's daughter—next to Fidel, used to call him uncle.

**During his speech,
Commander Juan
Almeida mentioned a
group of friends who
were present in the
rally.**

**Also, the peoples of Latin America
count on the experience, capacity
and talent of a man who has
become into the greatest
nightmares of imperialism; a
leader put to test in facts, who is
serving to the Revolution and who
is decisively contributing to the
revolutionary cause: Commander
Ernesto Ché Guevara. (Ovation)**

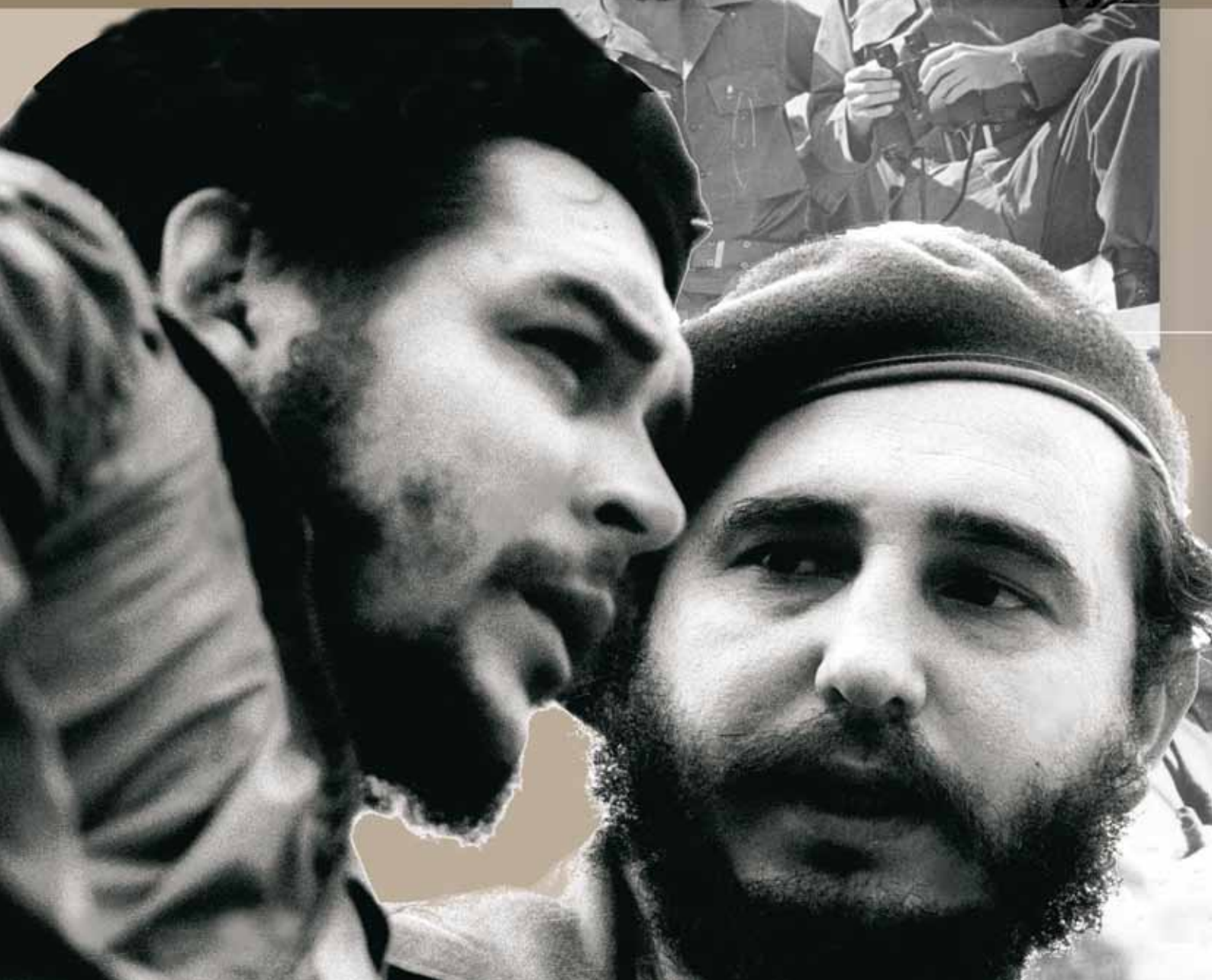


For him a salutation of this people! For him and his heroic comrades the deep hug of a brother, (APPLAUSE); the deep hug that the soldiers of our Armed Forces, the workers of our factories, the countrymen of our homeland, and the students of our schools reach out to him! For him and for those with him the salutation and hug of our workers and of our people!

From this tribune, and interpreting the feeling of this huge people rallied here, we tell Commander Guevara that we are with him, that the Cuban Revolution moves forward, and that the people he struggled for and combated for will never stop! (Applause)



**Che had been at the
REVOLUTION PLAZA, and
in parades next to
Fidel, in every
celebration.**







That day, thousands of kilometers away, in the geographic distance, but too close to the Cuban people that so much he loves, and of his fighting comrades, somewhere in the Bolivian jungle, from the very inside of the American depth, Che and his comrades were listening to the speech.





When summarizing the day, he would annotate in his diary:

We celebrated the date opening paths, but walking too little; still, we have not reached to divisions of waters. In Havana, Almeida spoke and went too far with the famous Bolivian guerrillas. The speech was somehow long, but good.

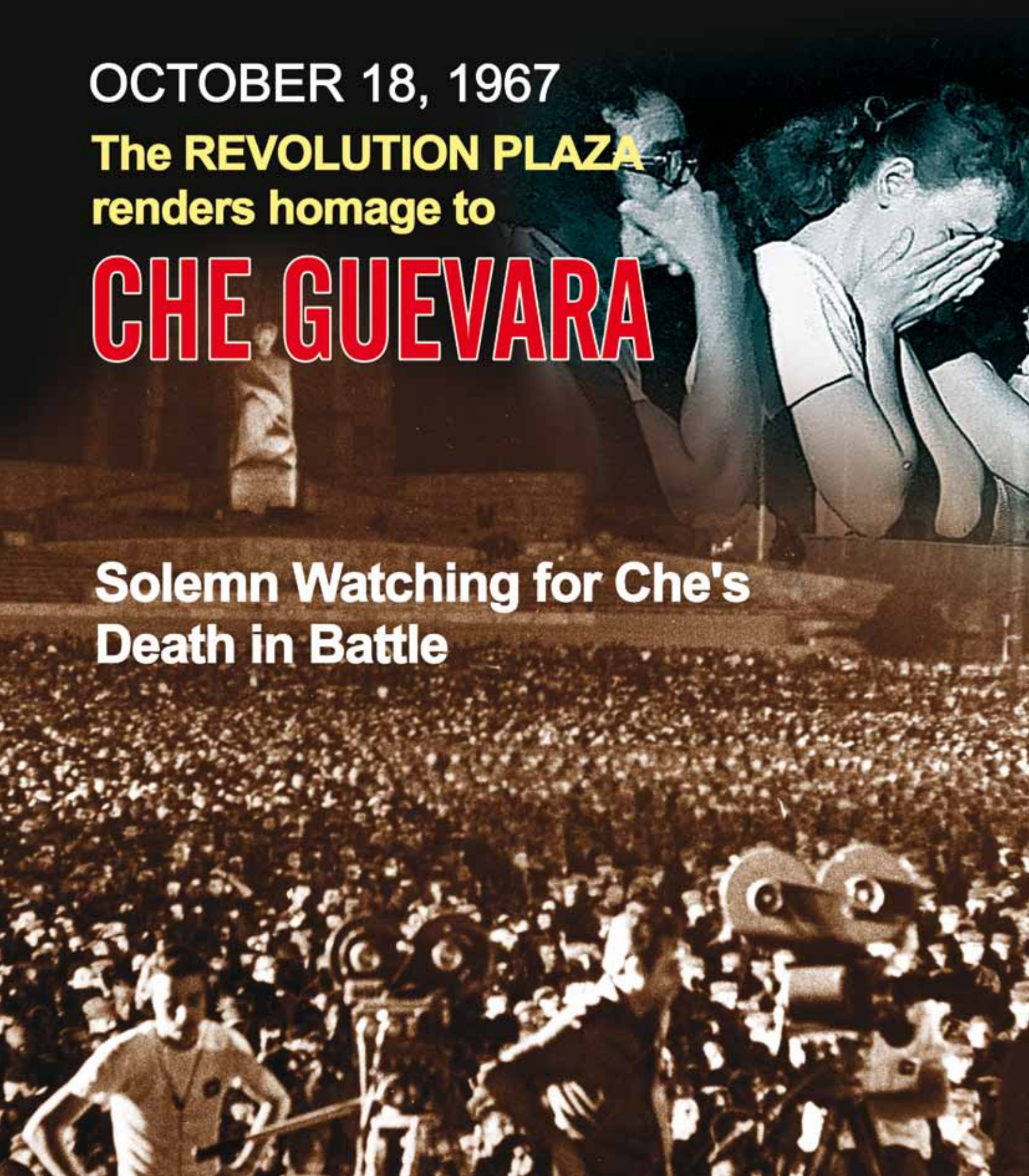


OCTOBER 18, 1967

The **REVOLUTION PLAZA**
renders homage to

CHE GUEVARA

Solemn Watching for Che's
Death in Battle







Those who believe that his death represents the defeat of his ideas, of his guerrilla conceptions, and of his theses, are wrong.

Che's immediate and instant disposition to carry out the most dangerous mission was one of his essential characteristics.

Although Che had, as any other guerrilla fighter, an Achilles's heel, that one was his excessive aggressiveness.



In his extraordinary personality, Che had virtues hardly ever found all together.

The practical and revolutionary thought of Che will have a permanent value in the revolutionary process of Cuba and of Latin America.

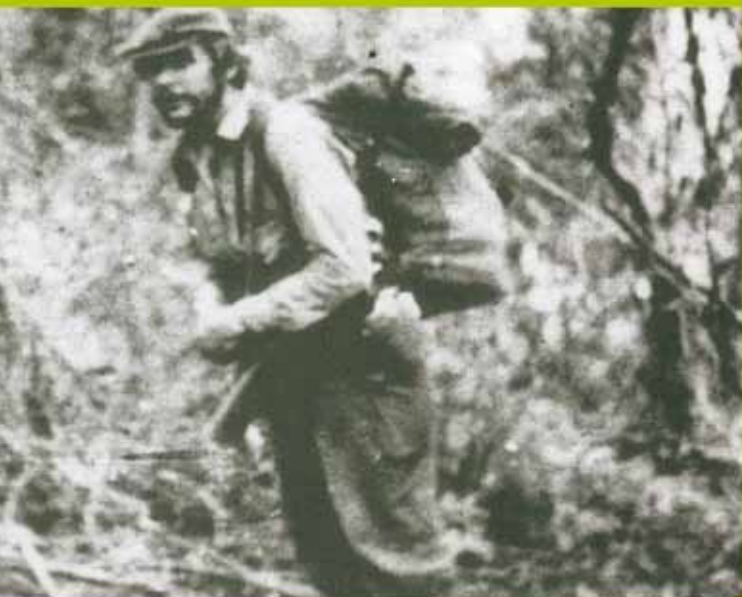
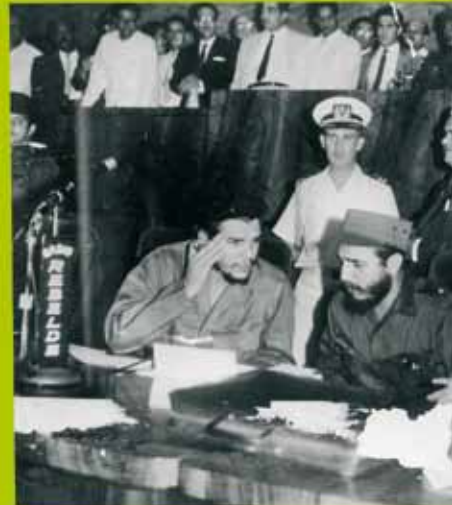
“Che's example must be the ideal model for our people to follow. He gave us his revolutionary thought, his temper, his will, his tenacity, and his working spirit. In short, he gave us his example to follow! And Che's example must be a model for our people; Che's example must be the ideal model for our people to follow!”



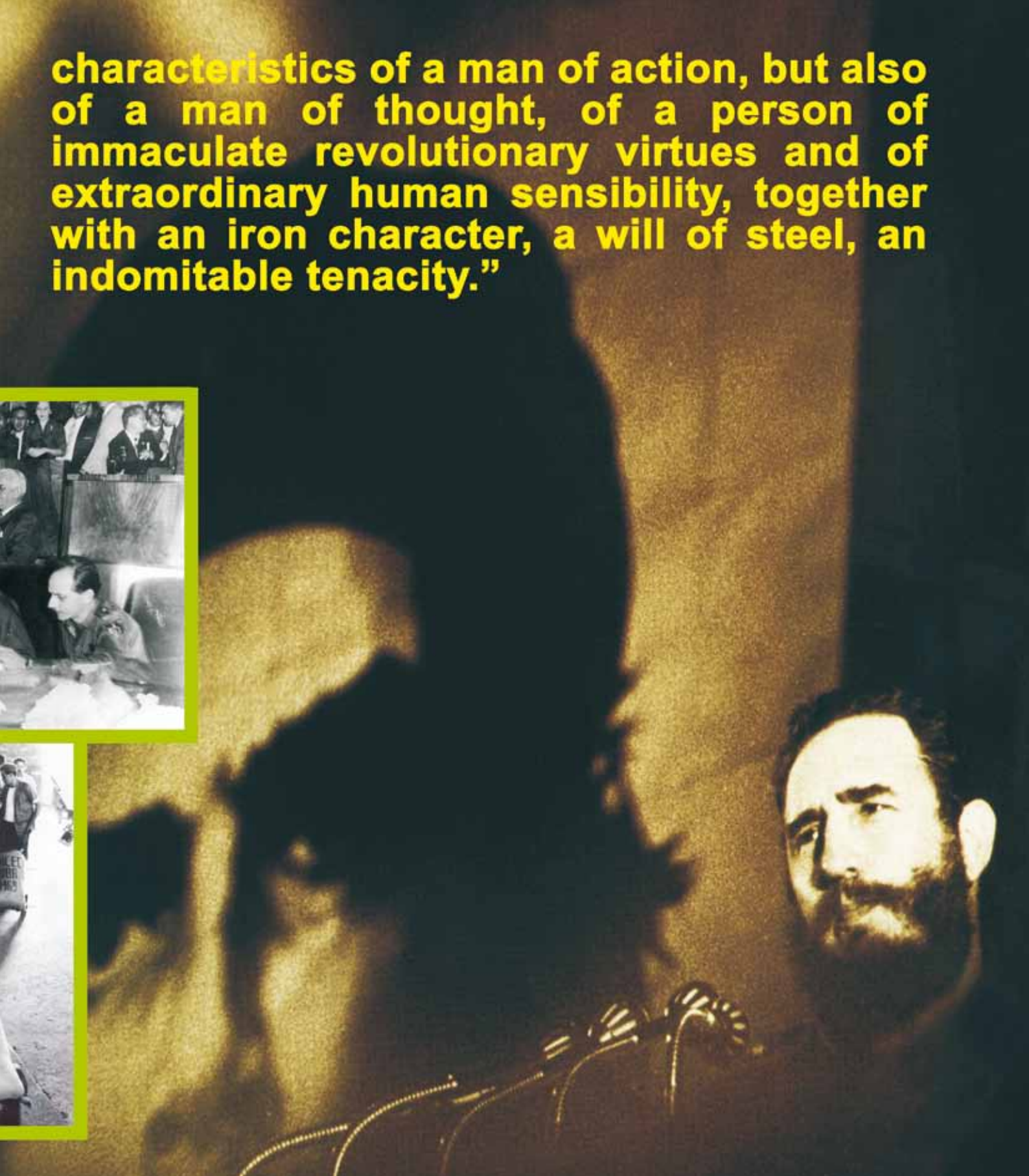




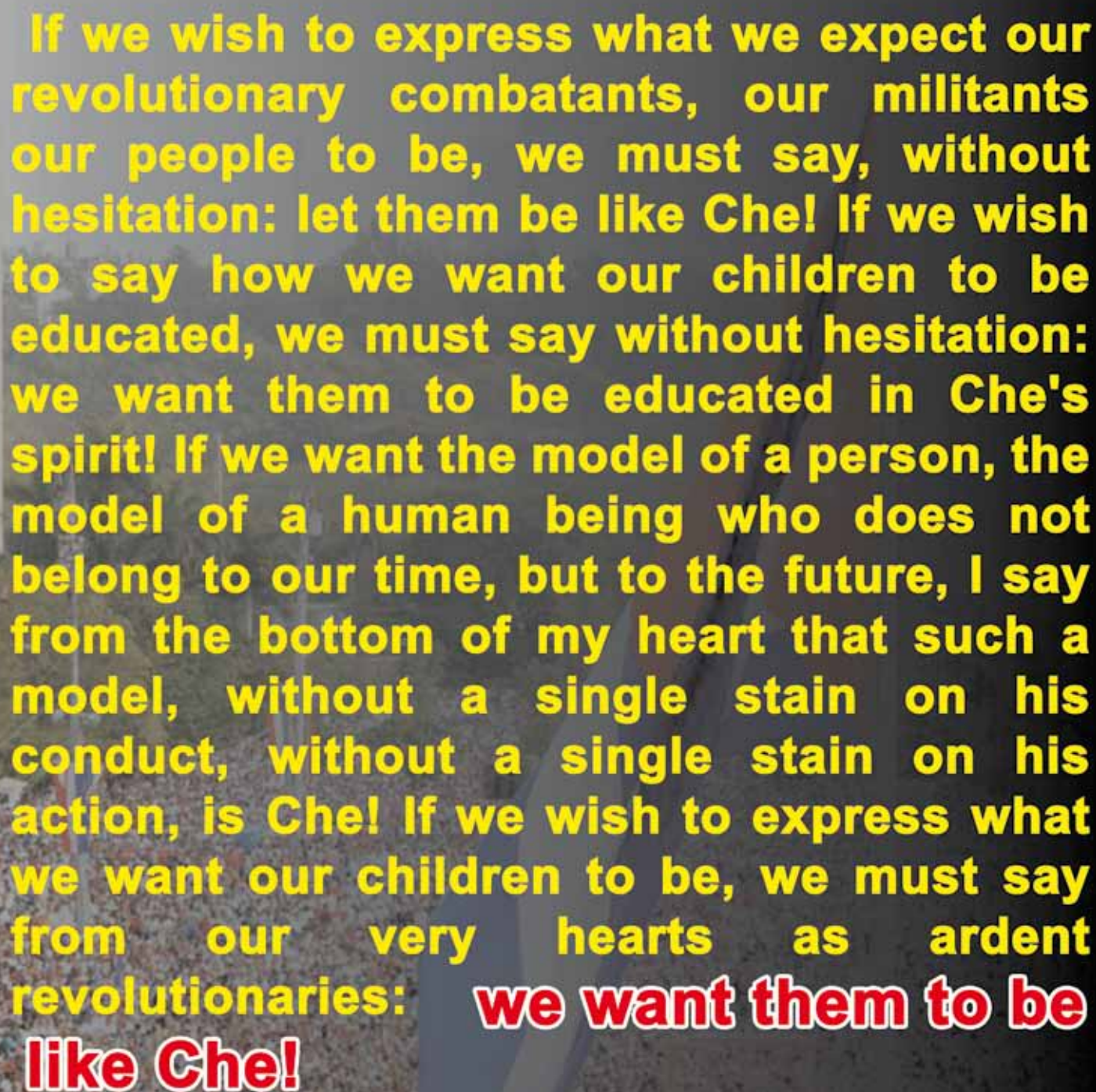
**“...When we think of his life,
...we think of his conduct that
constituted the particular
case of an extremely unusual
man, who was able to unite in
his personality not only**



characteristics of a man of action, but also of a man of thought, of a person of immaculate revolutionary virtues and of extraordinary human sensibility, together with an iron character, a will of steel, an indomitable tenacity.”

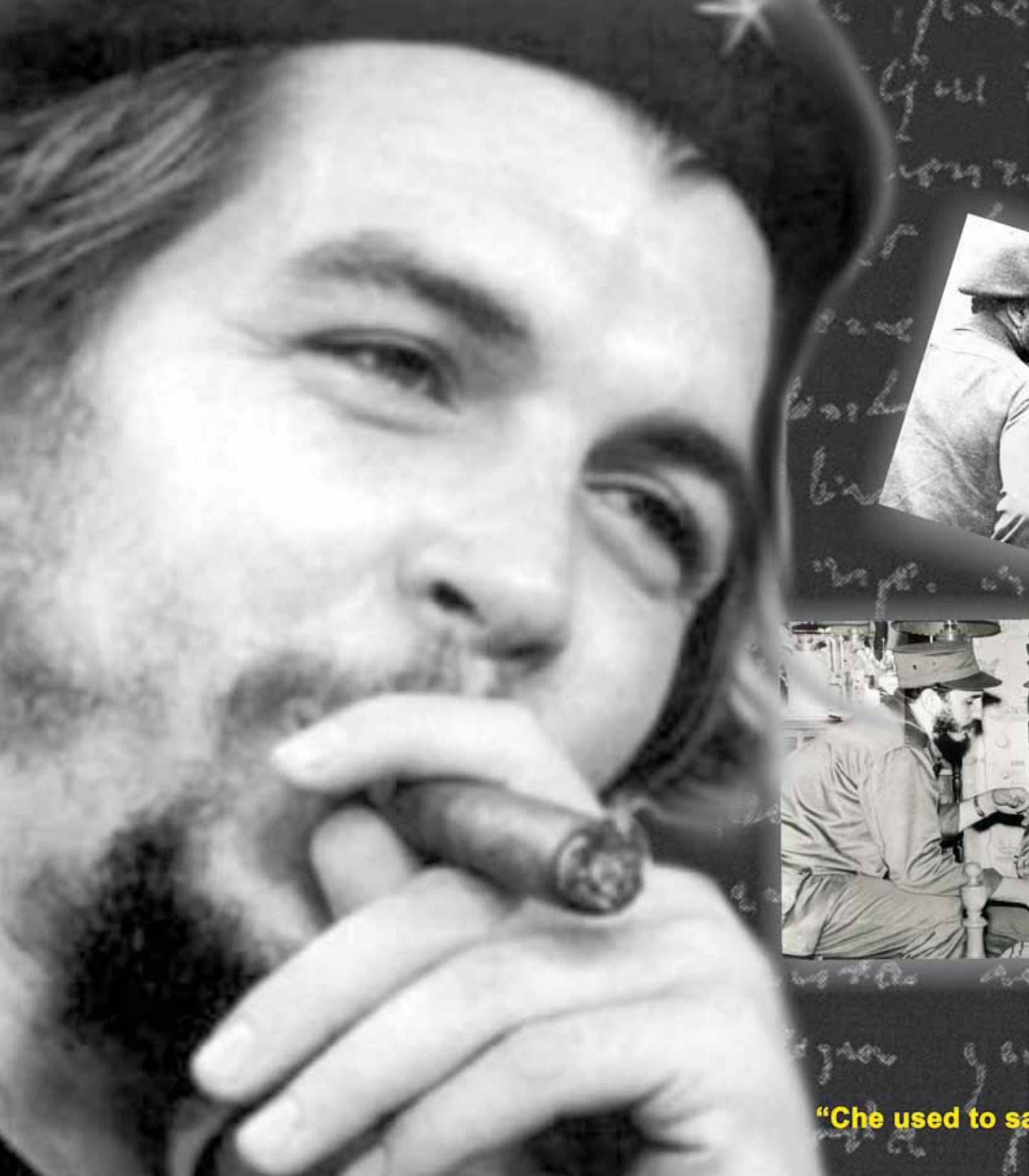






If we wish to express what we expect our revolutionary combatants, our militants our people to be, we must say, without hesitation: let them be like Che! If we wish to say how we want our children to be educated, we must say without hesitation: we want them to be educated in Che's spirit! If we want the model of a person, the model of a human being who does not belong to our time, but to the future, I say from the bottom of my heart that such a model, without a single stain on his conduct, without a single stain on his action, is Che! If we wish to express what we want our children to be, we must say from our very hearts as ardent revolutionaries: **we want them to be like Che!**

Speech in the Solemn Watching in Memoir of Commander
Ernesto Che Guevara,
Revolution Plaza, Havana, October 18, 1967. .



"Che used to sa

...Maybe one day Che dies in a battlefield or appears in a victorious revolution; then, you will see the authenticity of his farewell letter and of his identification with the Cuban Revolution and its Chief...


**Ernesto Guevara,
Response to Sol Arquedas, Mexican journalist, a few days
before his leaving for Bolivia.**



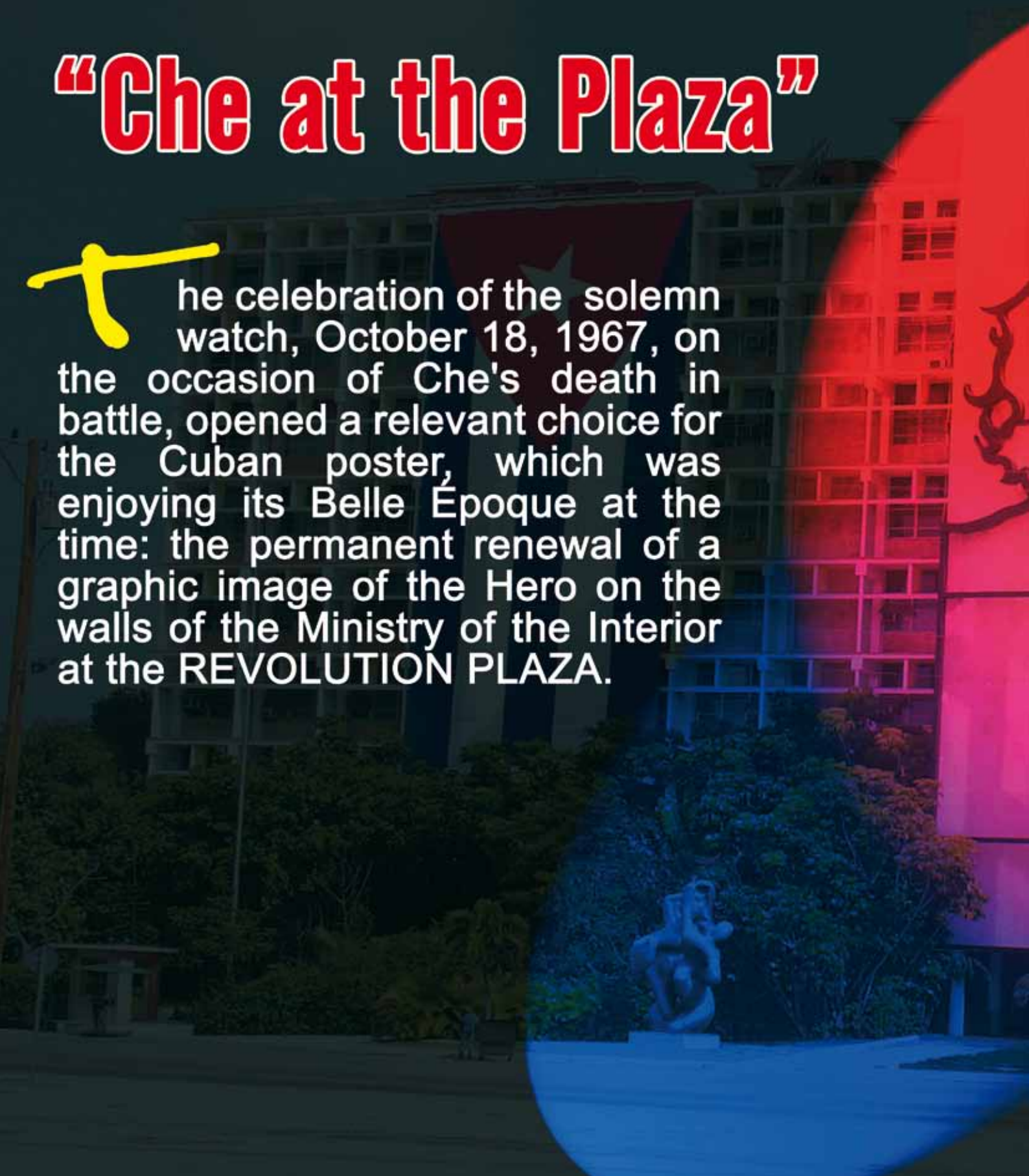
...Maybe he had been lucky for having faith in a chief and master like Fidel."

Leonardo Tamayo Núñez, Havana, 2004.

"Che at the Plaza"



The celebration of the solemn watch, October 18, 1967, on the occasion of Che's death in battle, opened a relevant choice for the Cuban poster, which was enjoying its Belle Époque at the time: the permanent renewal of a graphic image of the Hero on the walls of the Ministry of the Interior at the REVOLUTION PLAZA.





Hosta la
victore
sempre

CHE'S Images at the REVOLUTION PLAZA



Colorful works of art, frugal at times, from the best poster-makers and also of Cuban painters, were exhibited in this giant wall everytime the people gathered in some demonstration or parade. For the Cuban visual art that was a symbolic place, putting together the imagination of Cuban artists with the everlasting permanence of the Heroic Guerrilla Man.





Che permanent symbol at the REVOLUTION PLAZA

A final decision was made to establish a steady vision.

A contest of projects was called and the winning one was a relief made of steel, in correspondence with the Che's firm personality. This relief was configured with a strict and reproducing line of Che's most well known photo captured by Korda.

The image is 36 meters high by 20 meters wide, and it weighs 16 tons.

On October 8, 1993, the new image was set in the front wall of the Ministry of the Interior Building, as permanent symbol at the Revolution Plaza.





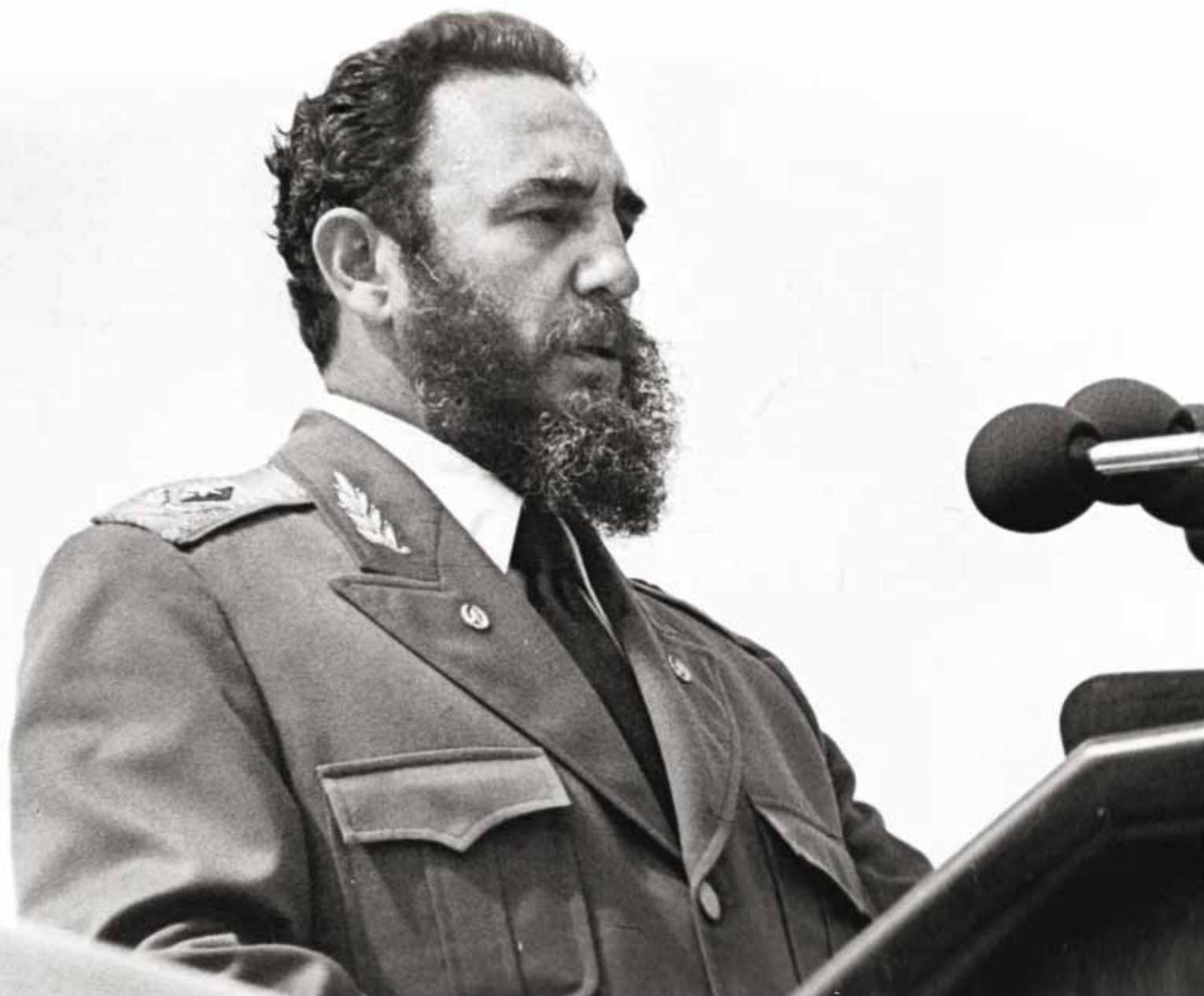
Enrique Ávila González —painter, sculptor and designer— graduated from the National School of Arts, 1971. He has been involved in several painting contests in which has obtained important awards and mentions. Part of his pictorial work is in the hands of private collectors in Europe and America.

The Che Guevara's sculptural relief at the REVOLUTION PLAZA, Havana City is, maybe, Ávila's most universal known



October 15, 1976

Mourning speech for victims of commercial plane of Cubana de Aviación, which exploded in mid-flight, October 6, 1976, due to a terrorist action executed by the Cuban-Americans Orlando Bosch Avila and Luis Posada Carriles.



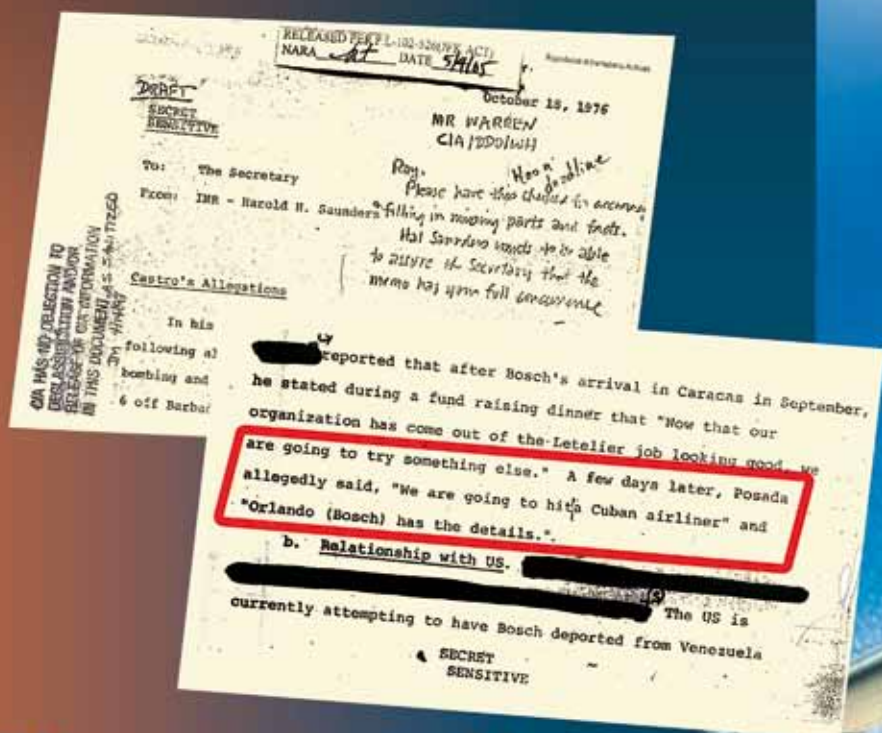


BARBADOS

On October 6, 1976, 11:21 a.m., Flight CU-455 from Cubana de Aviación Airlines—DC-8 plane—landed in the Seawell international airport, Barbados. Fifty-four minutes later, the plane took off bound for Jamaica. At 12:23 p.m., an explosion happened in the plane, which set on fire, and, after five dramatic minutes, the plane fell into the sea. No survivors were reported. Seventy-three people died: Cubans: 57, Guyanese: 11, north-Koreans: 5. The Cuban fencing juvenile team, which in early hours had won the Caracas Central-American Championship, was amongst the dead people.

"THE SABOTAGE WAS EFFECTIVE ON CASTRO"

Luis Posada Carriles's reply to a journal on sabotage against Barbados plane.
Miami Herald, November 10, 1991



"We are going to hit a Cuban airliner and Orlando (Bosch) has the details."

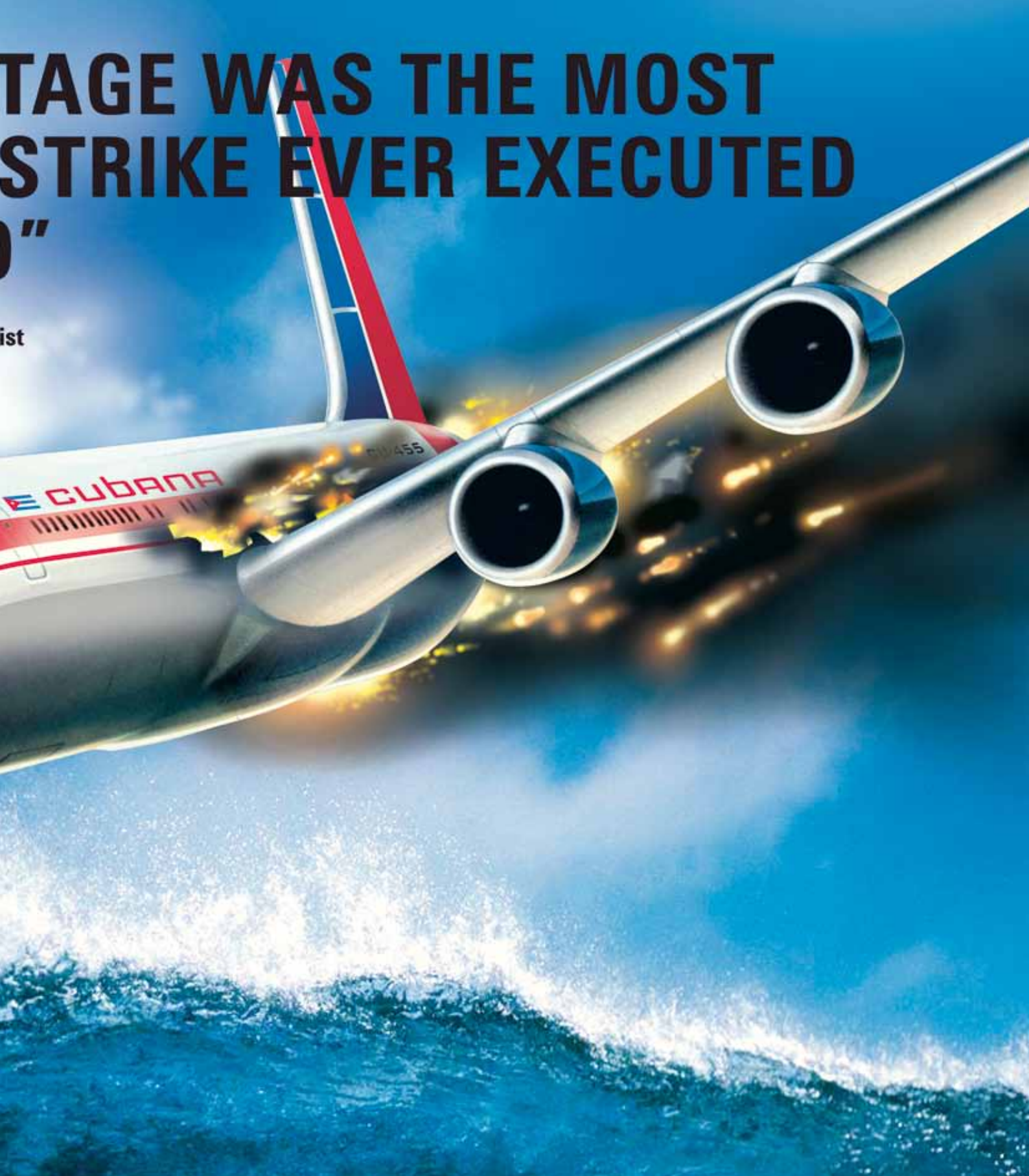
Luis Posada Carriles,
CIA Declassified Paper, September, 1976



TAGE WAS THE MOST STRIKE EVER EXECUTED

0"

ist



We—moved, mournful, and irritated—meet at this historical Plaza today to say good-bye, although almost symbolically, to the remains of our brothers, brutally killed by a terrorist action executed on a civil plane in mid-flight carrying 73 people on board, of which 57 were Cubans. Most remains lie at the very depths of the ocean, and the tragedy has not even given close families the consolation of their bodies. Just, the mortal remains of eight Cubans have been rescued.



They, thus, become into a symbol for all who died, the only material remain we will bury in our soil, of those who were 57 healthy, vigorous, enthusiastic, devoted and young compatriots of ours.





Their average age barely surpassed the 30 years of age, even though their lives, however, were already immensely rich for their contribution to work, study, sport, affection of close families and to Revolution.





The athletes had just written a brilliant and insurmountable page in sport history, winning the total of golden medals in the regional fencing competitions, just held in Caracas.

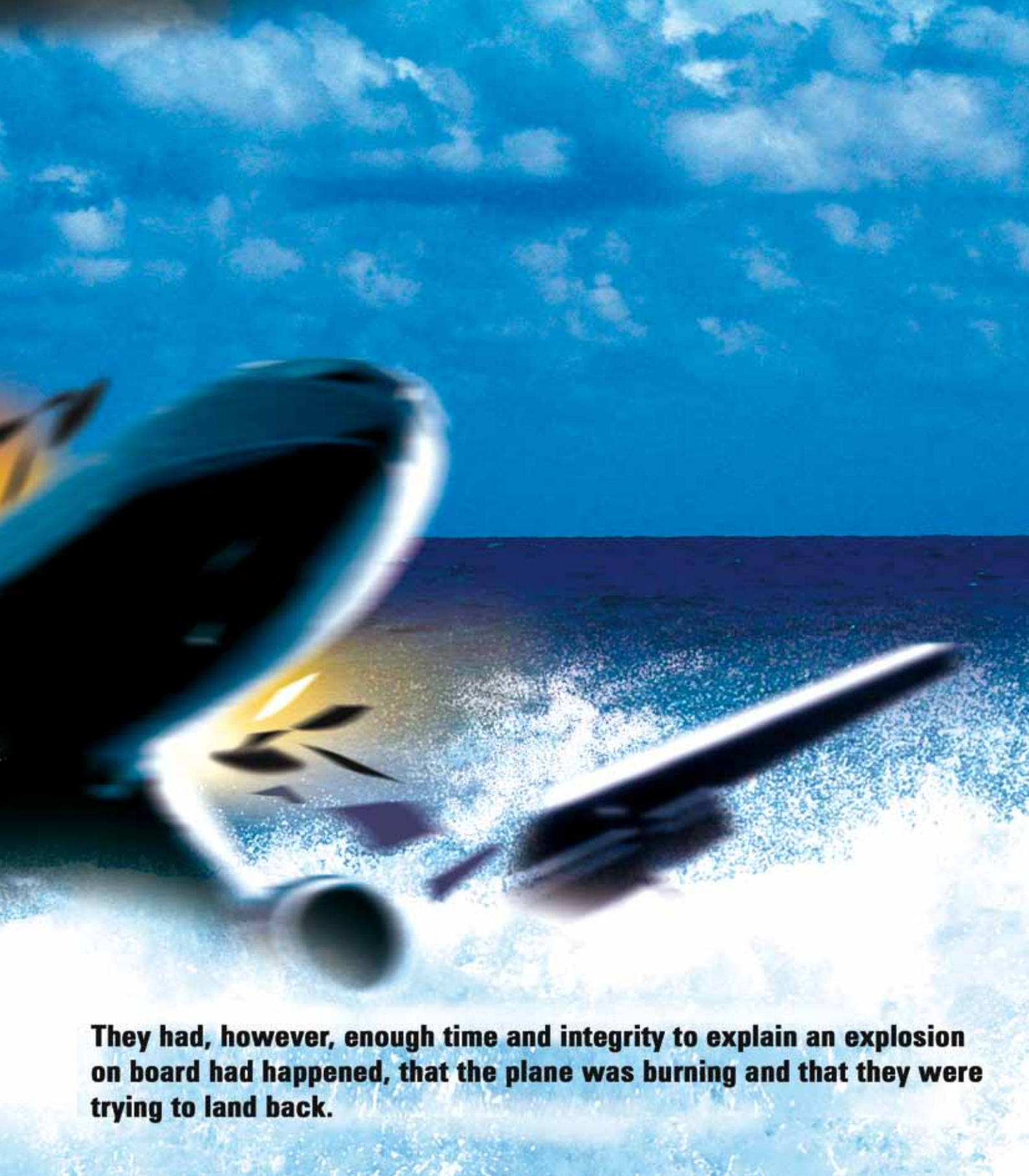
Each one of them had been a clear example of how dedication to studies, to improvement, to work, to duty fulfillment is today the main characteristic of our citizens.

Amongst the passengers of the plane were 11 Guianese youngsters. Six of them had been chosen to study medicine in Cuba; lost men's lives, whose fate was saving lives in their underdeveloped and poor country.

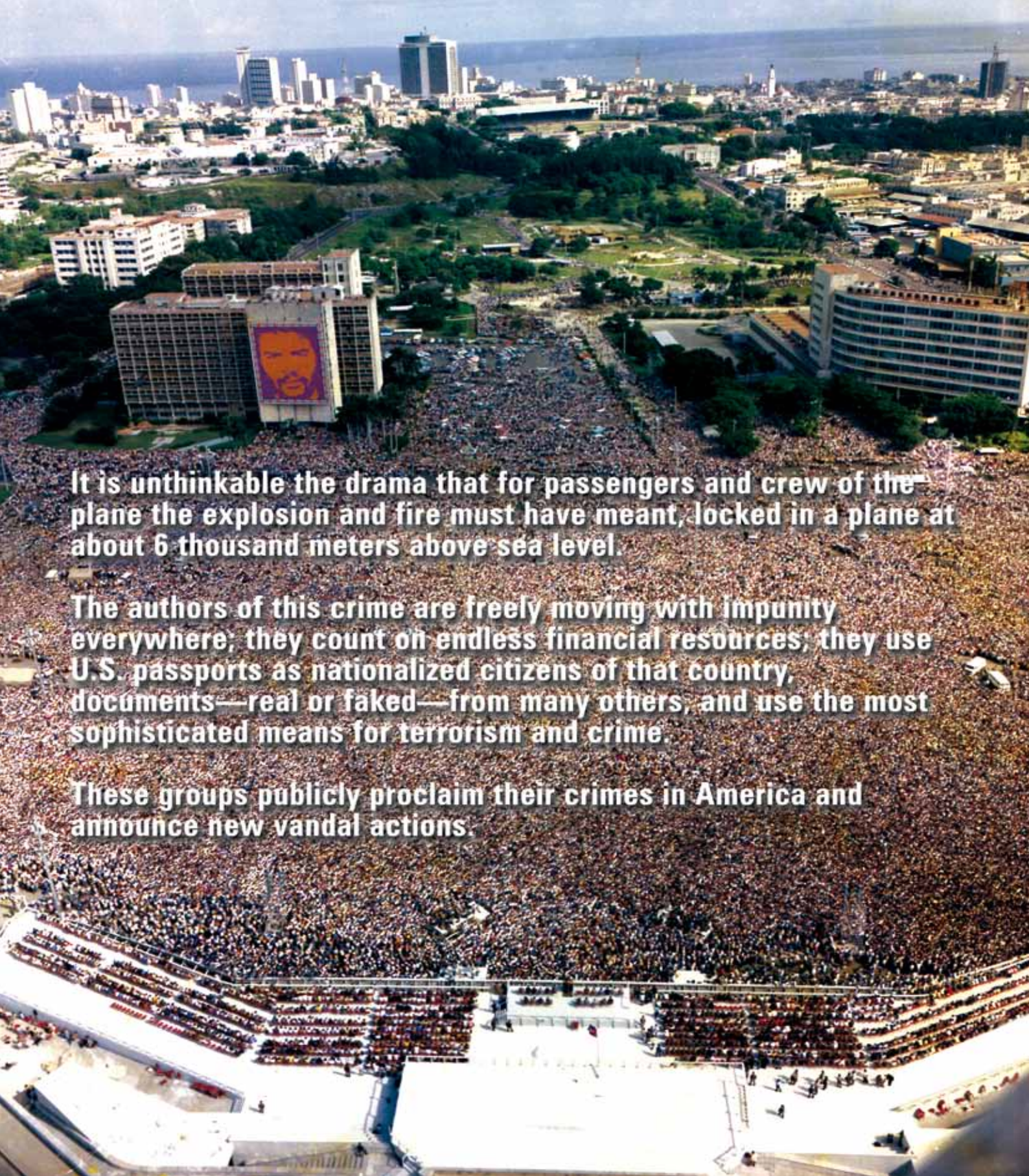




The plane was destroyed in mid-flight by an explosive charge a few minutes after taking off from Barbados Airport. With indescribable heroism, the brave and expert pilots of the plane made a supreme effort to make it land back, but the plane, on fire and almost destroyed could only remain in the air a few minutes more.



They had, however, enough time and integrity to explain an explosion on board had happened, that the plane was burning and that they were trying to land back.



It is unthinkable the drama that for passengers and crew of the plane the explosion and fire must have meant, locked in a plane at about 6 thousand meters above sea level.

The authors of this crime are freely moving with impunity everywhere; they count on endless financial resources; they use U.S. passports as nationalized citizens of that country, documents—real or faked—from many others, and use the most sophisticated means for terrorism and crime.

These groups publicly proclaim their crimes in America and announce new vandal actions.



Not only are these groups freely carrying out actions, with impunity, from U.S. territory, but their main ringleaders, through organizations as CORU, are closely linked with CIA activities on Cuba.

Could it be anyhow strange that these same elements were the authors of assassinating the former Chilean chancellor, Orlando Letelier, whose death irritated the world and Latin American opinion?

The Central Intelligence Agency is behind these facts.





**The Revolution gets more vigo
it consolidates, it gets more c**



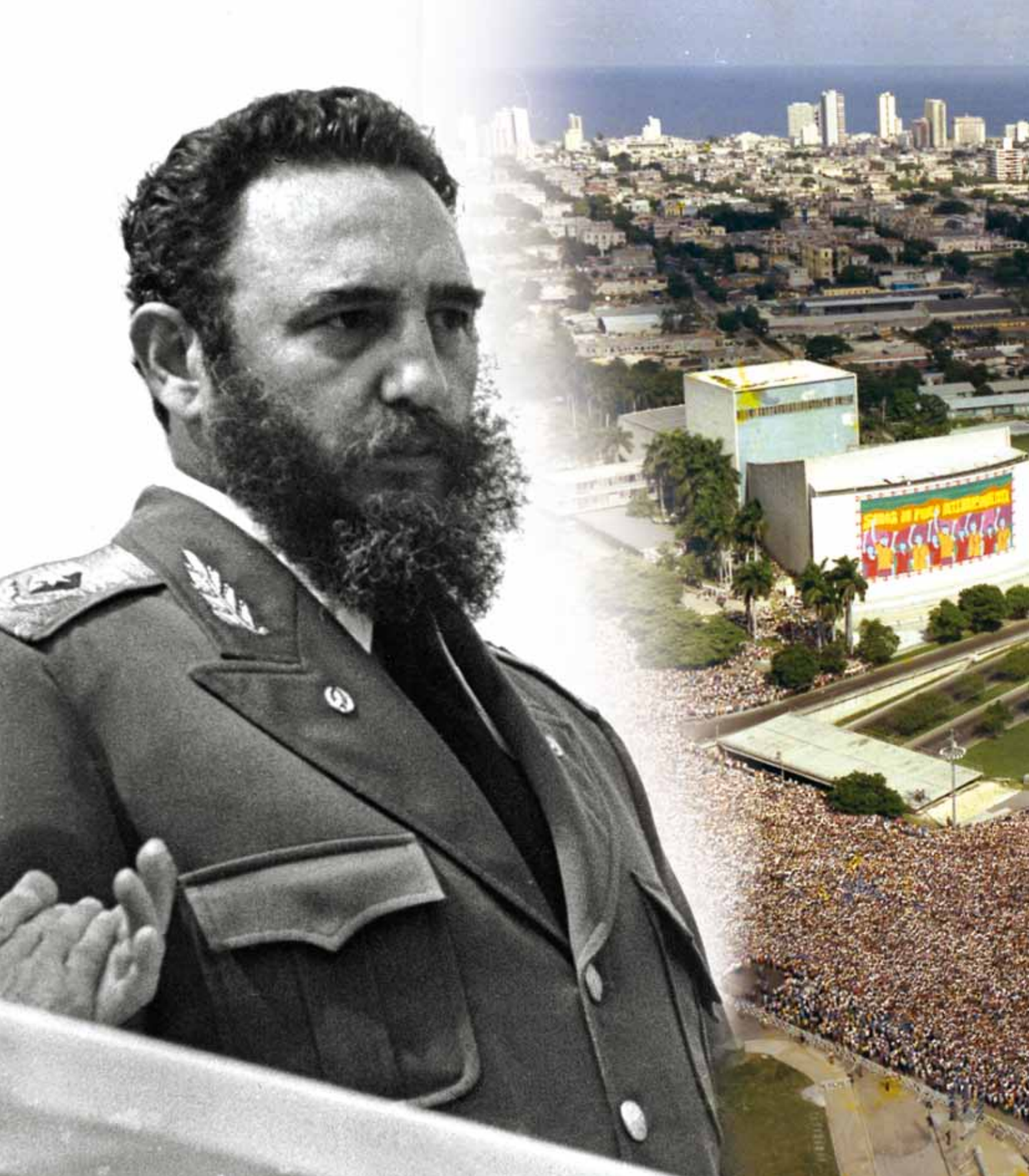
orous before every strike and every aggression,
conscious and stronger.

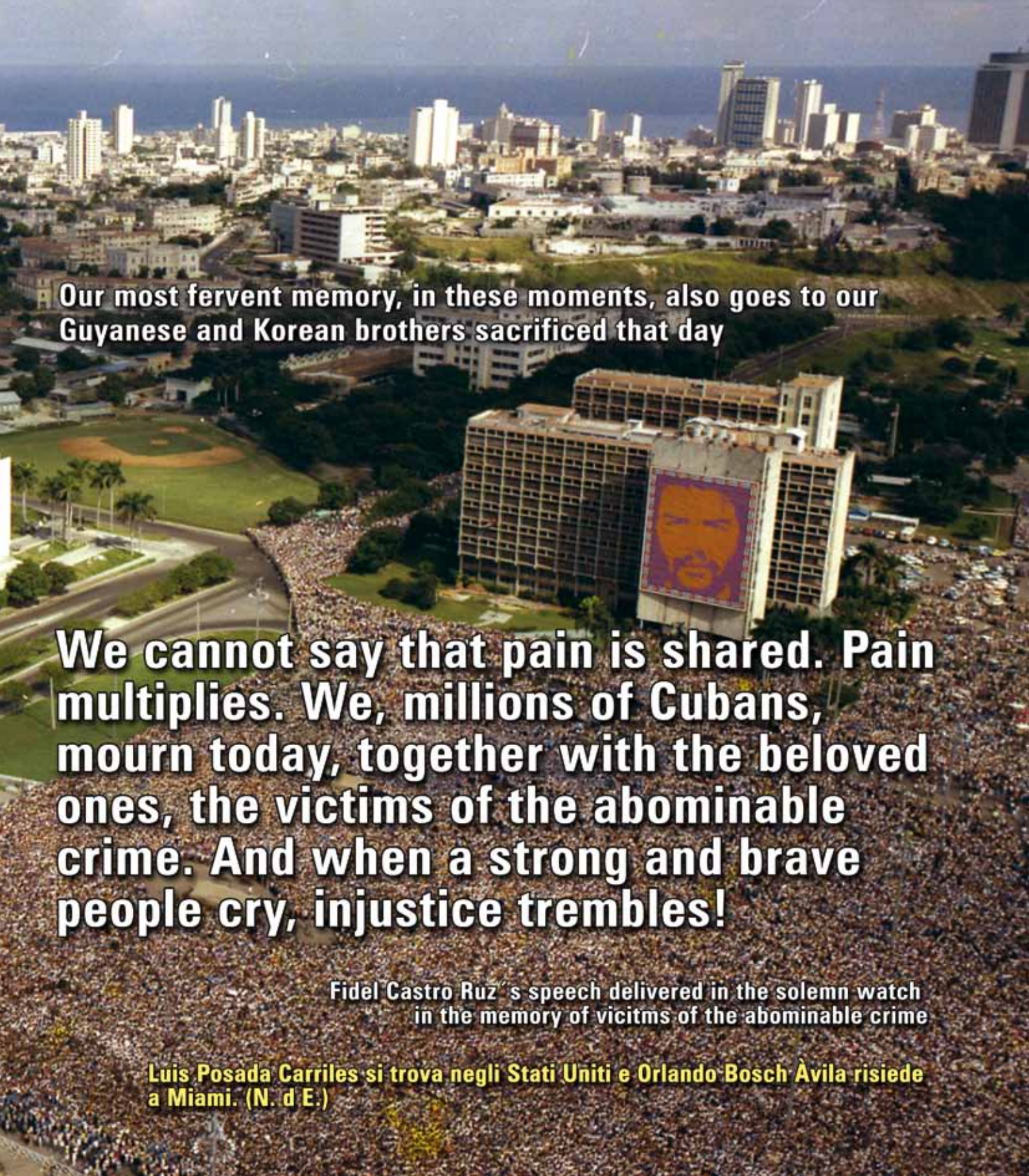


Our athletes, sacrificed in the youth and in their capabilities, will be eternal champions in our hearts; their gold medals will never lay in the bottom of the ocean, they will rise like impecable suns and like symbols in the Cuban heaven, they will not reach the honor of Olympiad, but they have gone up to the beautiful Mount Olympus of martyrs of homeland!

Our crew, our heroic workers of the air, and to all our dedicated compatriots, cowardly sacrificed that day, will live forever in the memory, in the tenderness, and admiration of the people!







**Our most fervent memory, in these moments, also goes to our
Guyanese and Korean brothers sacrificed that day**

**We cannot say that pain is shared. Pain
multiplies. We, millions of Cubans,
mourn today, together with the beloved
ones, the victims of the abominable
crime. And when a strong and brave
people cry, injustice trembles!**

**Fidel Castro Ruz' s speech delivered in the solemn watch
in the memory of vicitms of the abominable crime**

**Luis Posada Carriles si trova negli Stati Uniti e Orlando Bosch Àvila risiede
a Miami. (N. d E.)**

December 4, 1976

The people in uniforms at the REVOLUTION PLAZA

Brilliant demonstration of the "20th Anniversary of



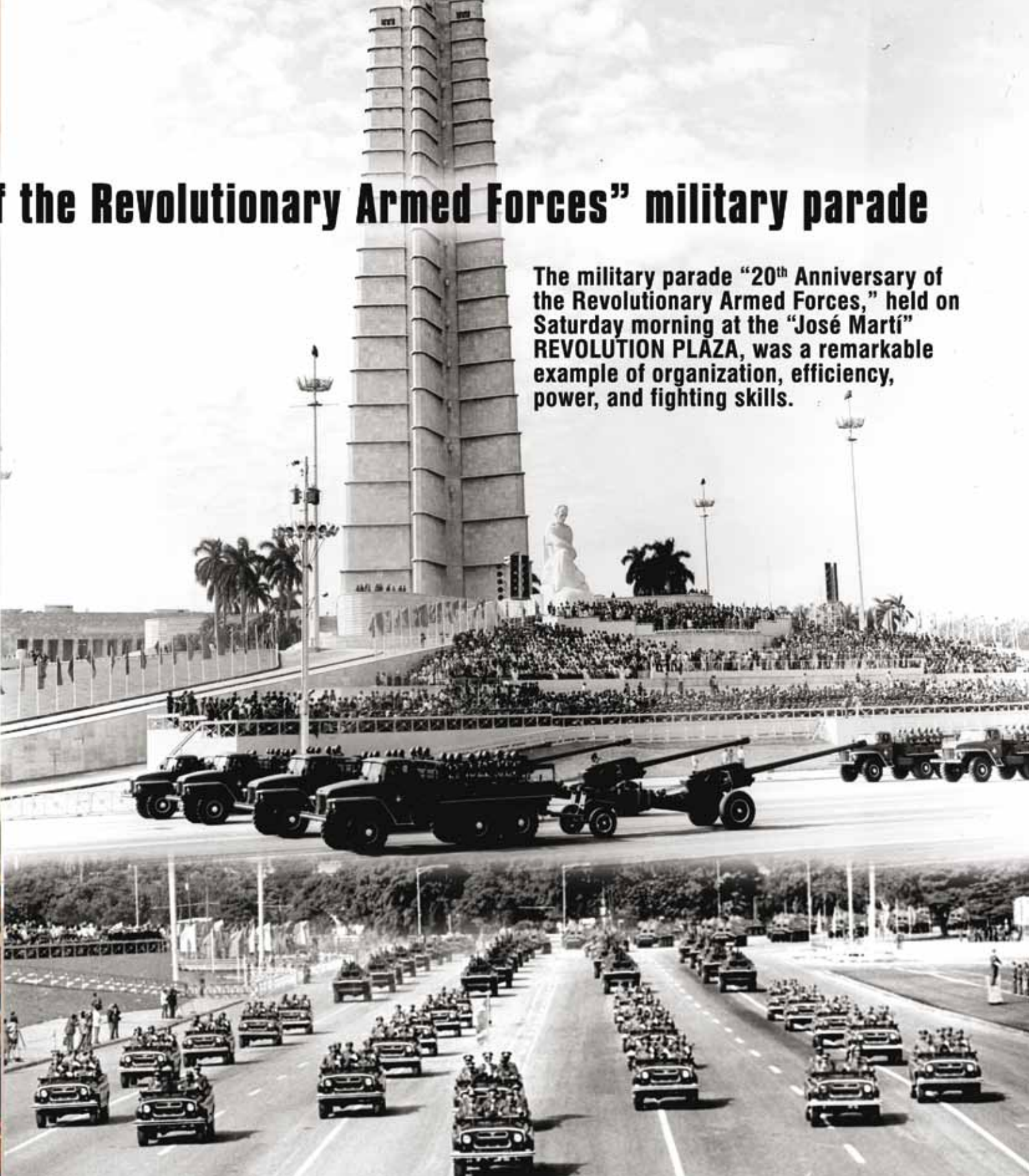
Victory in Angola

The South-African racists, the FNLA and the UNITA, defeated



f the Revolutionary Armed Forces" military parade

The military parade "20th Anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces," held on Saturday morning at the "José Martí" REVOLUTION PLAZA, was a remarkable example of organization, efficiency, power, and fighting skills.





At 9:00 a.m., the time to open the Military Parade, troops in parade formation are commanded:

Units, attention!

Right after, the convertible cars driving General of the Army and Reviewing Officer, Raúl Castro Ruz, and General of Division and Vice-minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Chief of the Troops involved in the military parade, Abelardo Colomé Ibarra, approach to the front of the tribune.

“Comrade, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, allow me to open the Military Parade in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the FAR.”



Fidel gives the order and General of the Army and Reviewing Officer, Raúl Castro Ruz, commands the taps and three rounds of artillery, in homage of all those who have died since November 30, 1956.

Division General, Abelardo Colomé Ibarra was the Chief of the Cuban troops that, upon request of the Popular Movement for Angola Liberation, successfully fought together with that heroic people.

Granma, December 6, 1976



I was imprisoned when, for the first time, I learned about the massive assistance that the Cuban internationalist forces were giving to the people of Angola, in such a scale that it was difficult for us to believe when Angolans were attacked, in a combined way, by South-African troops, the FNLA—with CIA funds—the mercenaries, and UNITA forces, and that of Zaire, in 1975.

**Nelson Mandela
July 26, 1991**



A real-size replica of "Granma" Yatch navigates in a "red" sea of 5 thousand pioneers from schools of Havana.



Ignacio Agramonte's reveille vibrates, and a full cavalry, similar to a regiment of the glorious Mambi Army, opens the Military Parade, resembling the historical continuity of our people's struggle for over a century.





Missiles of the Revolutionary Navy
on parade.

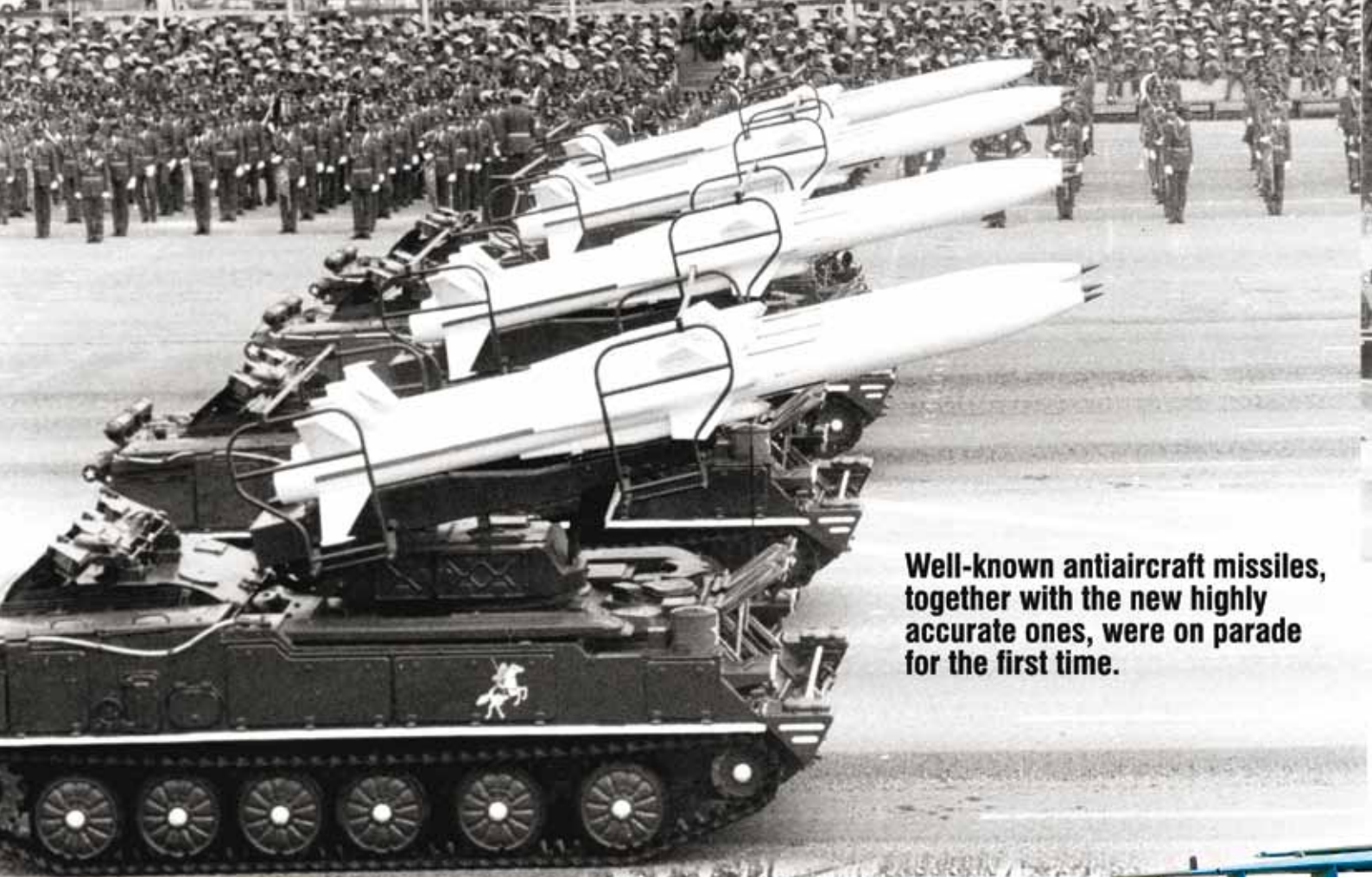


Tanks T-62 on parade at “José Martí” REVOLUTION PLAZA for the first time. They give genuine continuity to Ignacio Agramonte's mambí cavalry.



The students from our military academies showed their organization and martial condition.





Well-known anti-aircraft missiles, together with the new highly accurate ones, were on parade for the first time.





Our modern fighters, MIG-21 type, closed the parade.



Our ideas go beyond all borders. We live in a world we had to, and we are fighting for a better one...

**Fidel Castro Ruz
July 26, 1991**

If something disgusting and hateful is to be found in this world, where some things are disgusting and hateful, that so disgusting and hateful thing is apartheid.

**Fidel Castro Ruz
July 26, 1991**



Angola

OPERATION CARLOTA, THE VICTORY

Cuito Cuanavale marks the turning point
in the fight to free the continent and
our people from scourge of apartheid.

Nelson Mandela
July 26, 1991

"MIG-23s broke our hearts,"

tomb inscription in Afrikaans language made by a
South-African soldier.



CUITO CUANAVALE

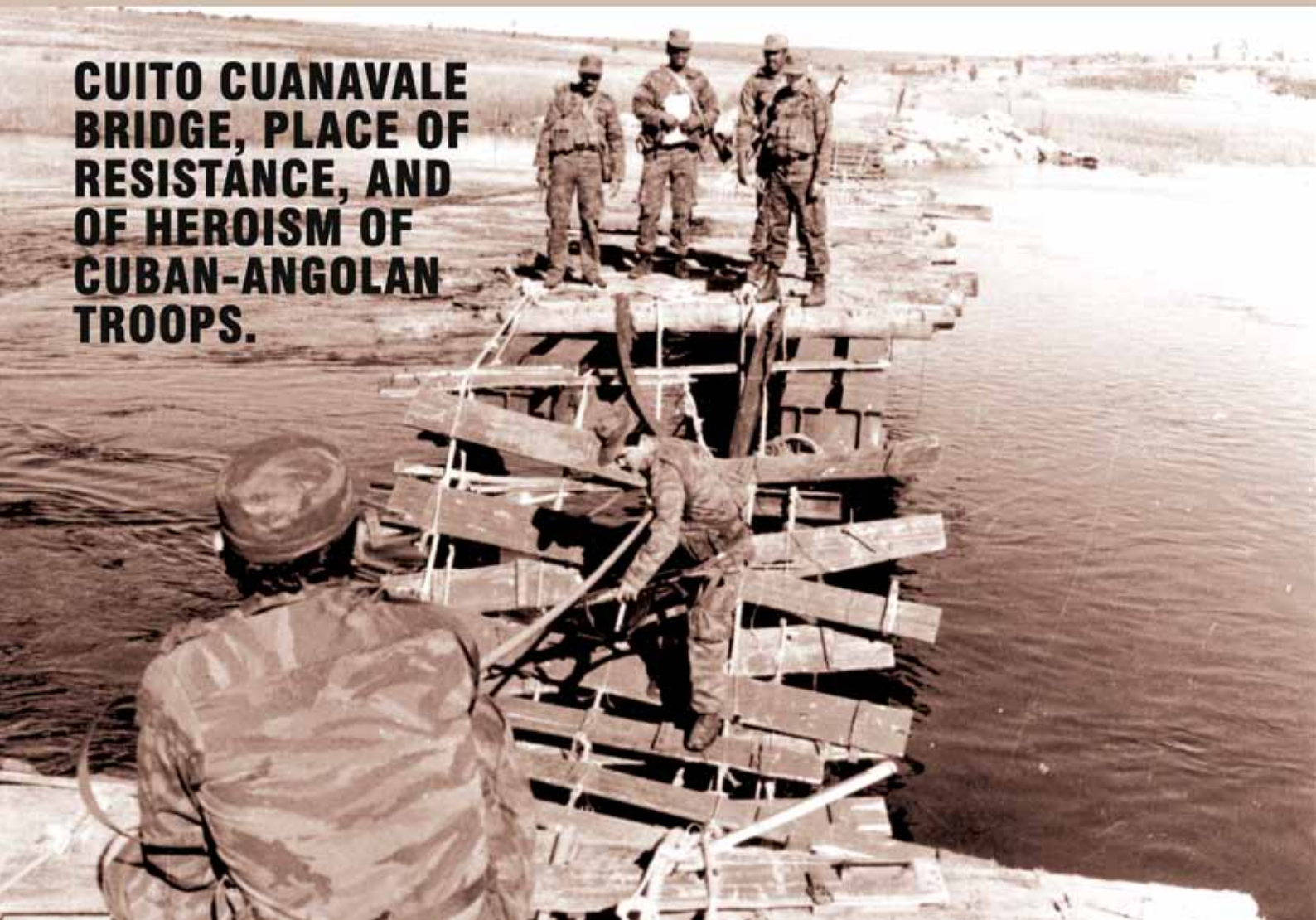
Unique prowess of a small town, with internationalist vocation, to a military power that used powerful forces, modern aircraft, artillery and cutting-edge armored vehicles, but could not occupy the location. The town, then, turned into a symbol of resistance and courage.

A PLACE FULL OF HEROISM

Some 40,000 Cuban and Angolan troops, with over 500 tanks, hundreds of guns and around 1,000 antiaircraft weapons, mainly Cuban antiaircraft weapons, we took out from here, moved bound for Namibia, supported by our aircraft and an advanced airport built in weeks time.

**Fidel Castro
July 26, 1991**

**CUITO CUANAVALÉ
BRIDGE, PLACE OF
RESISTANCE, AND
OF HEROISM OF
CUBAN-ANGOLAN
TROOPS.**





In the African history an account before and after Cuito Cuanavale has to be made, for south of Angola, the Cuban-Angolan forces changed the course of developments in southern part of Africa. Neto's homeland preserves its independence, Namibia reaches this, and apartheid is smashed to smithereens to make a new South-Africa be born.

In the African history there is no other case of a people that have revolted in defense of one of ours.

**Nelson Mandela
July 26, 1991**



They are the heroic defendants of Cuito Cuanavale, as it reads in the decoration instituted by the State Council of the Republic of Cuba, and that in those days, in the arena of the fighting actions, both Angolans and Cubans were invested with.





What country can show a history of higher altruism, except that of Cuba has shown, in its relations with Africa?

**Nelson Mandela
July 26, 1991**



...Our combatants made maintenance of integrity and accomplishment of peace in the sister Republic of Angola possible.

...Our combatants contributed an independent Namibia to exist.

**Fidel Castro Ruz
July 26, 1991**

From the beginning, the Cuban Revolution has been an inspiration for all the peoples who love freedom.

The Cuban people have a special place in the hearts of African peoples.

The contribution of Cuban internationalists to independence, liberty and justice in Africa has no parallel of its nature of principles and altruism.

This man, in times of cowardice and of so many things, has come to tell us this he has said this afternoon. This is something that will never be forgotten and is giving us the human, moral, and revolutionary dimension of Nelson Mandela.

**Nelson Mandela, July 26, 1991
Matanzas City, Cuba**

Fidel Castro Ruz, July 26, 1991





We are proud of our behavior, and our troops returned home victorious from Angola.

**Fidel Castro Ruz
July 26, 1991**

THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE WERE PRESENT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO CUBAN BROTHERS



We will take from Angola the deep friendship joining us together to that heroic nation, and the gratitude of its people, and the mortal remains of our beloved brothers, died in battle, in fulfillment of duty.

**General of the Army & Minister of the FAR, Raúl Castro Ruz,
December 12, 1976**

TRIBUTE TO COMBATANTS DEAD IN BATTLE

December 6, 1989, the remains of the 2,077 Cuban internationalists, dead in battle missions in Africa, are moved back to homeland.

December the 7th, Anniversary of the Titan of Bronze's Death in Battle, and National Mourning Day, is chosen for the solemn ceremony and to render homage of the whole people to those who, with their blood, made also victory fruitful.



**The supreme merit and glory belong to the Cuban people
who will appraise in its deepest and everlasting transcendence**

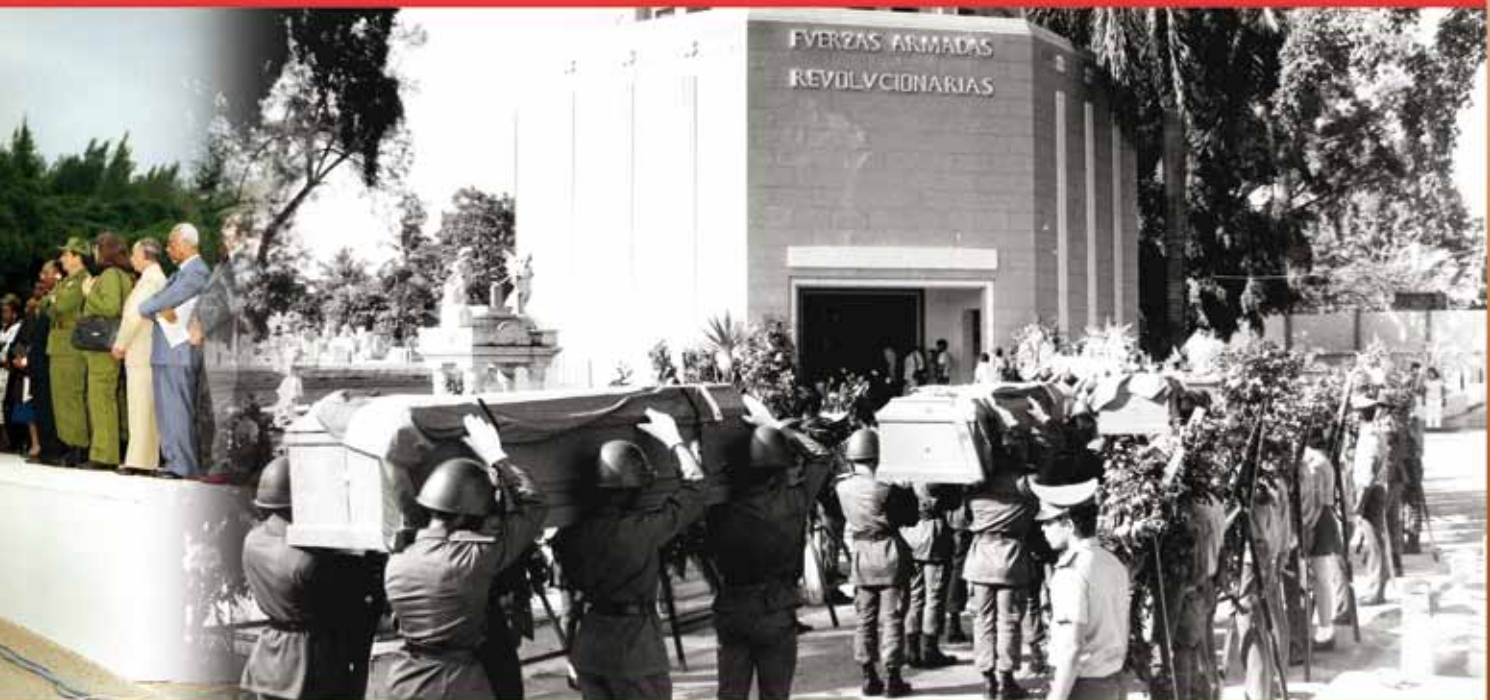




**MAY 25, 1991, NIGHT TIME,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FIDEL
CASTRO WELCOMES THE LAST
GROUP OF INTERNATIONALIST
COMBATANTS RETURNING HOME**

**people, truly actor of such an epopee, that only history
vidence.**

Raúl Castro Ruz



**“Those who come to this land to make war will
Ebo, Morros de Medunda, Cangamba, Ruacana
suffer imperialists and their toadies the conse**



I confront thousands of Quifangondo, Cabinda, á, Tchipa, Calueque and Cuito Cuanavale as did sequences of thousands Bay of Pigs in Angola.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred hours with Fidel], p. 329



More than just stone

January 27, 1996

Opening of José Martí Memorial

...Any one can feel satisfaction that a man like him has received this so beautiful and aesthetic homage, for it is truly beautiful the combination of everything in here. Conception has been excellent, we, then, do have a Memorial that we thought of having it, for there was a monument and a star. I think a lot of people are coming to see it, no citizen will waste the chance to see it...

Fidel Castro



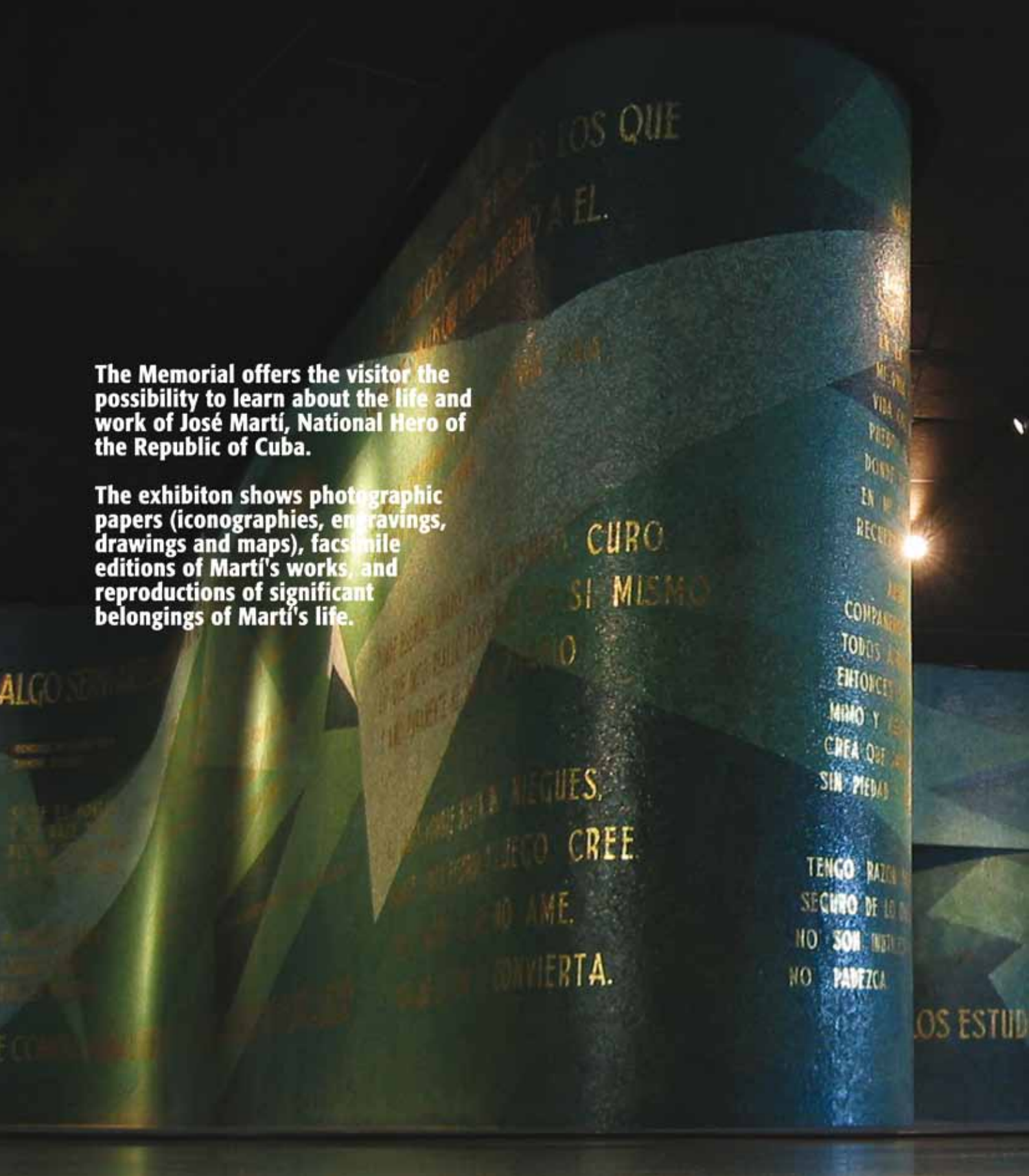


**The “José Martí” Memorial
is located in the historical
REVOLUTION PLAZA,
in the heart of Havana.**



The Memorial offers the visitor the possibility to learn about the life and work of José Martí, National Hero of the Republic of Cuba.

The exhibiton shows photographic papers (iconographies, engravings, drawings and maps), facsimile editions of Martí's works, and reproductions of significant belongings of Martí's life.





NACE EN LA HABANA EL 28 DE ENERO.

SABER LEER ES SABER
SABER ESCRIBIR ES

LO JUSTO ES

YO SOY UN HOMBRE SINCERO...

ANTES SON

SE AFIRMA EL PUEBLO QUE
HONRA A SUS HEROES.



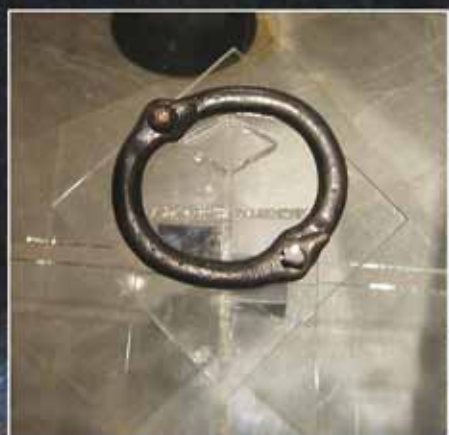


ESCASOS COMO LOS MONTES SON LOS
HOMBRES QUE SABEN MIRAR DESDE ELLOS
Y SIENTEN CON ENTRAÑAS DE NACION, O
DE HUMANIDAD.

HOMBRES RECOGERA QUIEN
SIEMPRE ESCUELAS.

SI SE ES HONRADO
Y SE NACE POBRE.
NO HAY TIEMPO PARA
SER SABIO Y RICO.

HOMBRES HAGA
QUIEN QUIERA
HACER PUEBLOS.



The really amazing exhibitions in rooms 1 & 2 are about the life and work of our National Hero. Accuracy of replicas of personal belongings—revolver, rifle, shackle, frock coat, podium of Guanabacoa Liceum—are remarkable.

The exhibiton presents, for the first time, Martí's degrees of Bachelor in Law, and that of Philosophy and Arts, Zaragoza University, Spain, he could never possess, and, on the occasion of the centennial of Martí's death, these degrees were issued post-mortem in 1995, by the Rector of Zaragoza University, Mr. Juan José Badiola Díez. Also, President Justo Rufino Barrios, Guatemala, 1877, gave Martí a Quetzal (dissected bird) as a present that is on exhibition at the Memorial.

The replica of the sword of Simón Bolívar, El Libertador, which the Venezuelan President, Hugo Chávez Frías, gave Commander-in-Chief, Fidel Castro, as a present, and who, too, gave as a donation to the Memorial, is also exhibited.

October, 2000





Room 3 recreates
the construction history of the
REVOLUTION PLAZA
area and that of the Monument.
The most important
developments happened
at the Plaza, are also
exhibited in this room.



PARA RENDIR TRIBUTO NINGUNA VOZ ES DEBIL.

October 11, 1997
The people render homage to
Commander Ernesto Guevara
and his comrades.





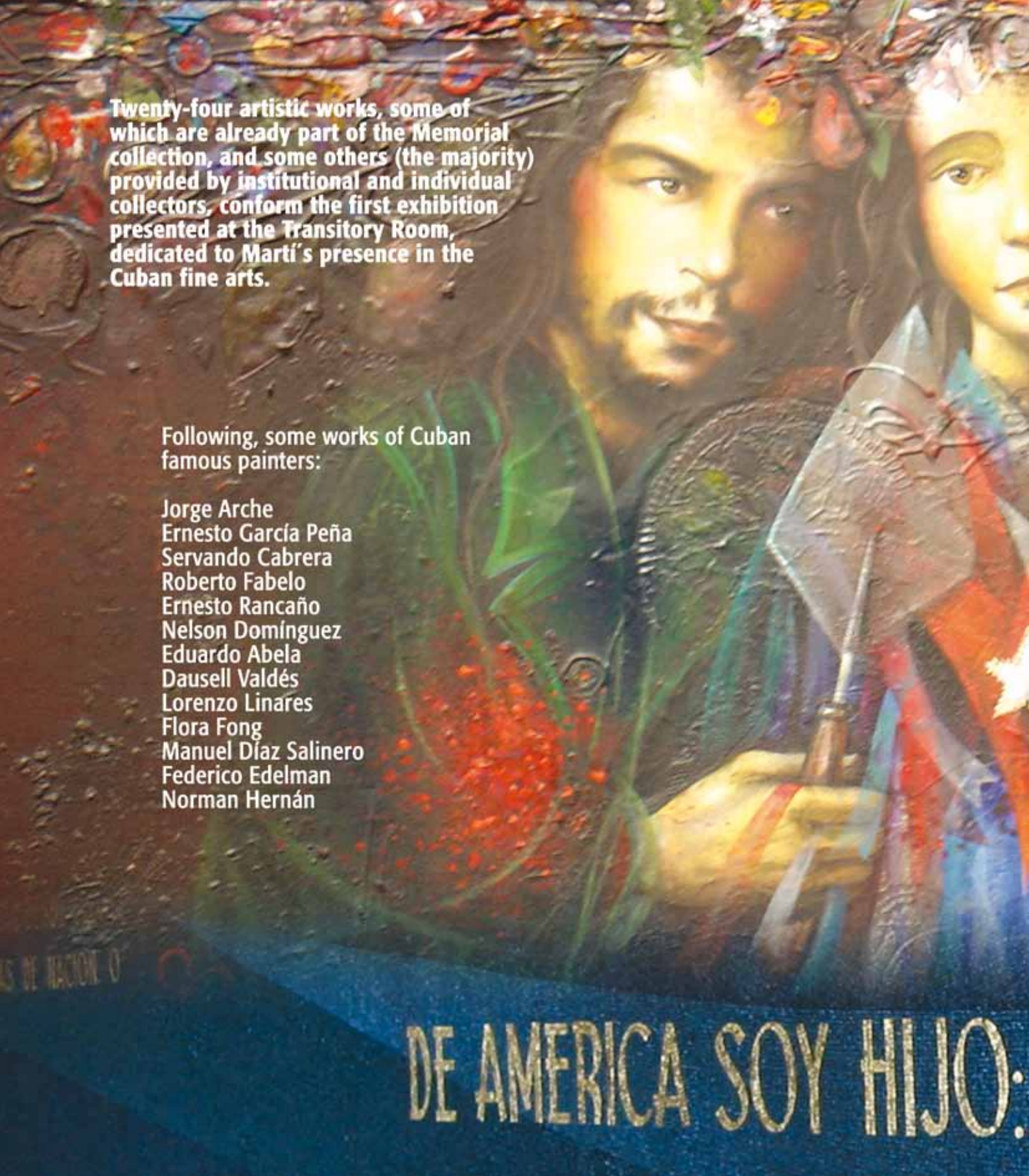
JUNTARSE. ESTA ES LA PALABRA DEL MUNDO.

...ARIO,
...INGUIRIA PARA
...RENTA! PERO VIVE, NO
...ES REBELDE, SU PUEBLO
...FIEL A SU



...A MORIR EN EL AÑO
...QUE SU MEMORIA SE
...SIEMPRE, TANTA ERA LA
...HA MUERTO, SU PUEBLO
...ES DIGNO, SU PUEBLO ES
...RECUERDO.





Twenty-four artistic works, some of which are already part of the Memorial collection, and some others (the majority) provided by institutional and individual collectors, conform the first exhibition presented at the Transitory Room, dedicated to Martí's presence in the Cuban fine arts.

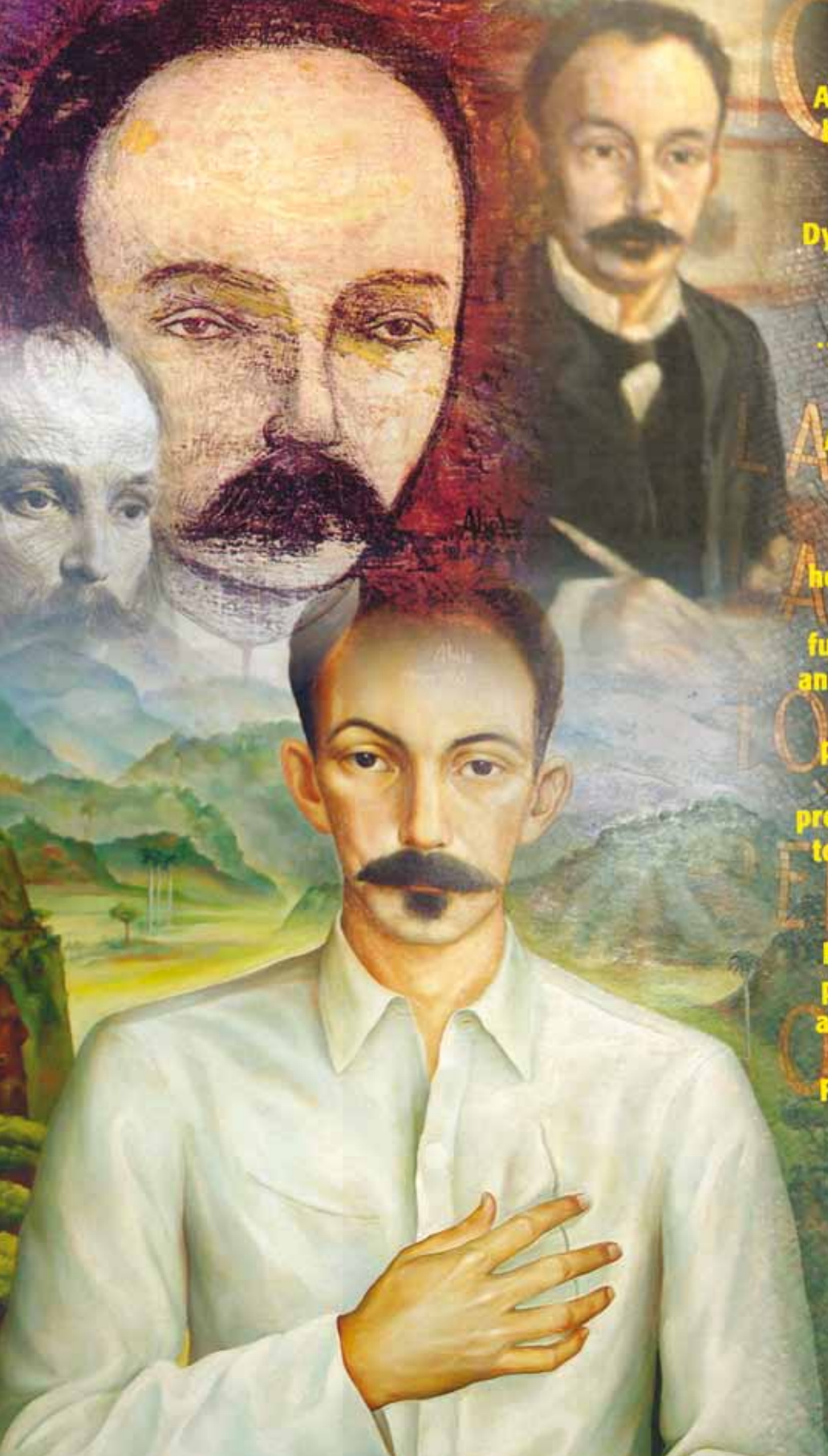
Following, some works of Cuban famous painters:

Jorge Arche
Ernesto García Peña
Servando Cabrera
Roberto Fabelo
Ernesto Rancáño
Nelson Domínguez
Eduardo Abela
Dausell Valdés
Lorenzo Lináres
Flora Fong
Manuel Díaz Salinero
Federico Edelman
Norman Hernán

DE AMERICA SOY HIJO.



A ELLA ME DEBO...



A man died at the cross one day,
but dying at the cross has to be
learnt everyday.

Dying is not true, when fulfillment
of life work has been good.

...There is not full glory of men,
without women's rejoicing.

All great ideas have their great
Nazarene.

If in terms of affairs of my
homeland, I were given a good to
prefer for all the rest, a
fundamental good that were base
and principle for all in the country,
and, without which the other
possessions were fallacious, for
sure, that would be the good I
prefer, I want the cult of all Cubans
to full dignity of men be the first
law of our Republic.

Homeland is mankind, it is that
part of humanity we see closer,
and in which we had to be born.

For me, homeland will never be
triumph, but agony and duty.

José Martí



NO

UEDE

PUEDE

SER DE

CION

Y NO

VISIT OF THE POPE **JOHN PAUL II**

On January 21, 1998, His Holiness, John Paul II, kissed the Cuban land at José Martí Airport, Havana, starting a five-day tour that turned this into an event of relevant world impact, and also into a demonstration of high culture of the Cuban people.





PEOPLE CONTROLLED THE INTERNAL ORDER THEMSELVES. NO POLICE OFFICER WAS SEEN ARMED IN THE STREETS DURING THE DAYS OF THE POPE'S VISIT



"As successor of the Apostle, Peter, and following the mandate of the Lord, I have come as messenger of the truth, of the hope, to confirm you in the faith and to leave a message of peace and reconciliation in Christ."

HH Juan Pablo II



Not only mobilized the Church its parishioners, but also in every John Paul II activity—either during the welcome ceremony in Havana, or alongside the 20-kilometer tour, or during masses in Santa Clara, Camagüey, and Santiago de Cuba, and at the REVOLUTION PLAZA in Havana, or in meetings with the world of pains and of culture, or in his contacts with religious authorities and all his moves—the people mobilized.

Also, the people massively mobilized as an expression of hospitality and affection towards the spiritual leader, with which our people agreed in many essential statements, and who was listened to with respect even in those issues in which the people did not share the same ideas.



Holy Mass at the **Plaza**



“After having held the holy mass in this Plaza, witness of great event of the Cuban history, and of everyday life of the peoples of this beautiful city of Havana, which has deserved the name of key of the New World, I give you all my heartiest and most affectionate salutation when we are about to pray the Angelus Domini, the prayer in honor to Virgin Mary.”



On the other hand, some kind of capitalist neo-liberalism, subjecting man to economic interests and imposing the least favored ones with unbearable burdens, is showing up. Thus, unsustainable economic programs are occasionally imposed to nations as conditions for receiving new assistance. Then, in the concert of nations, we are attending to the exaggerated enrichment of few ones at expenses of the increasing impoverishment of many ones, in such a way that rich people are richer and richer, and poor people are poorer and poorer.

Message of H.H. John Paul II, during the prayer of the Angelus Domini,
José Martí REVOLUTION PLAZA, Havana,
Cuba, January 25, 1998.



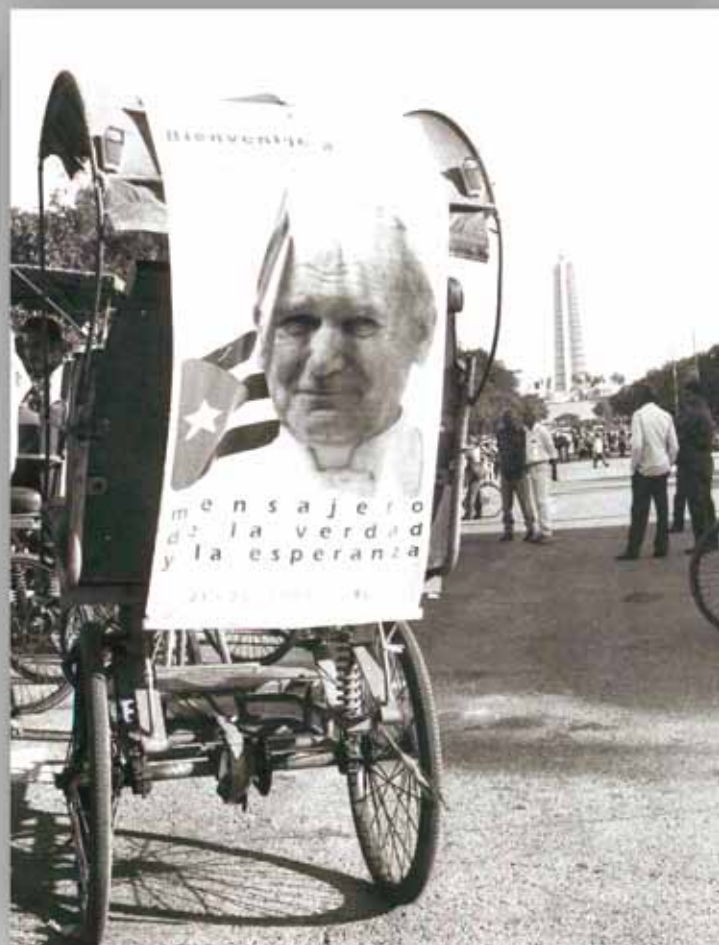




Cuba, Your Holiness, is facing at present the most powerful power of history, as a new David, much smaller a thousand times, which with the same sling of biblical times, is fighting to survive, against the giant Goliath of the nuclear era, that is trying to impede our development and to make us surrender by illness and famine. If that history had not been written at the time, it would have been written at present. This monstrous crime cannot be overlooked. And excuses are not accepted.

Fidel Castro







To the Pope John Paul II

"Rest in peace, indefatigable fighter for friendship among peoples, enemy of war, and friend of the poor."

"The efforts of those, who tried to use Your prestige and Your enormous spiritual authority against the just cause of our people in their fight before the huge empire, were in vain."

"You visited us in hard times and could perceive the noble condition, the spirit of solidarity, and the moral bravery of our people that welcomed You with special respect and affection for they could capture the kindness and love for mankind that drove Your long pilgrimage worldwide."


"Before returning to Rome, You said the restrictive economic means imposed from outside Cuba were unjust and ethically unacceptable. Your statements gained You forever the gratitude and love of all Cubans who give You the deserved homage today."

"We mourn your death, unforgettable friend. And we ardently wish Your example last forever."

Fidel Castro

April 4, 2005

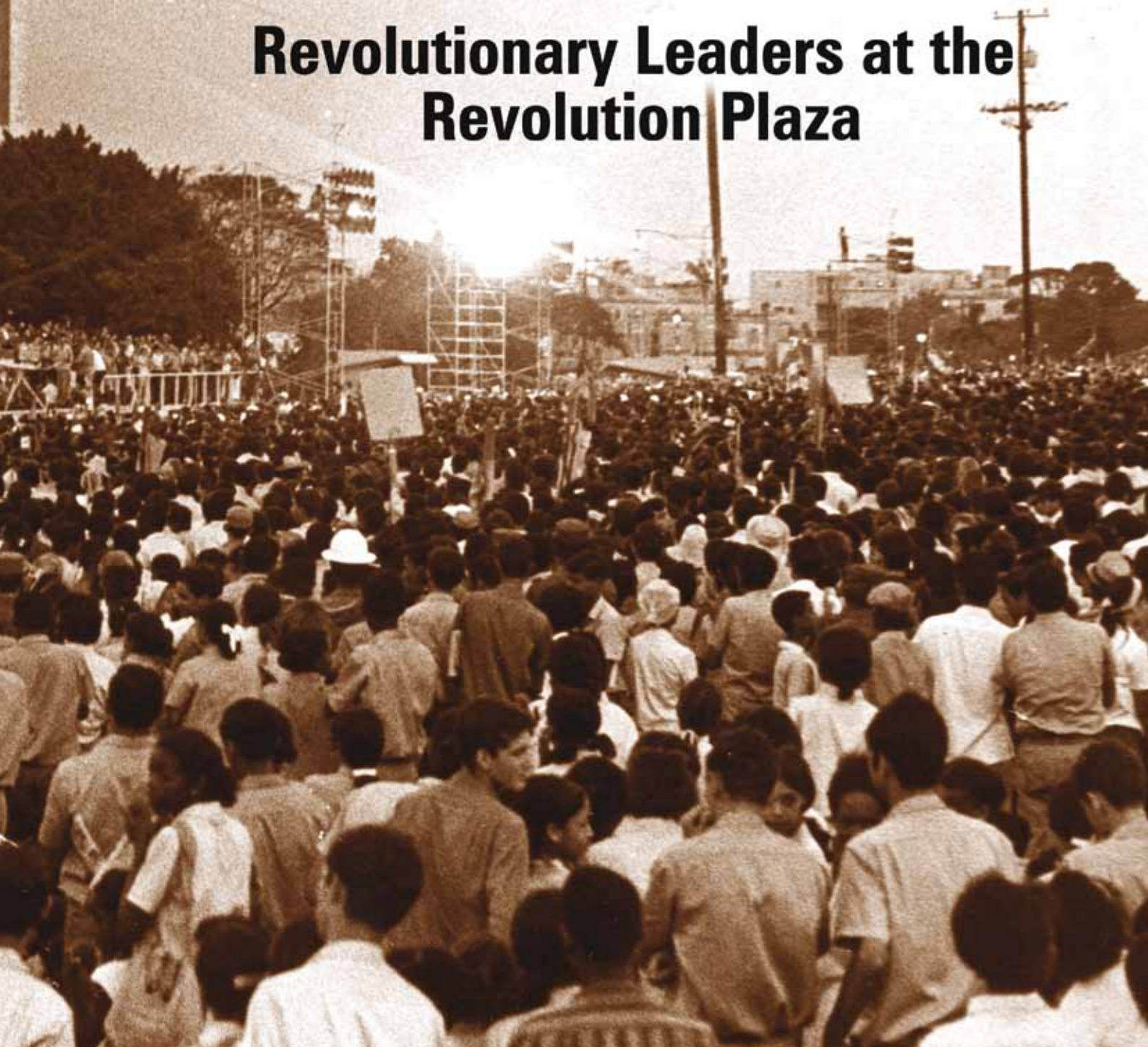


A large crowd of people is gathered in front of a multi-story building. The building has a mural on its facade that includes a map of South America. The text on the mural is in Spanish. The crowd is dense, with many people standing and some sitting on the shoulders of others. The scene appears to be a public event or demonstration.

DEL RIO BRAVO A LA
PATAGONIA HAY UN SOLO
PUEBLO: AMERICA.

The PLAZA rejoices of pride

**Revolutionary Leaders at the
Revolution Plaza**



DECEMBER 13, 1972

Salvador Allende at the REVOLUTION PLAZA

Hundred of thousands of people expressed their solidarity alongside the 30-kilometer tour.



The people of Havana, representing the whole people of Cuba, expressed the Chilean President, Salvador Allende, their solidarity and affection to such an extent that this demonstration can be considered as the most massive one ever remembered in our revolutionary history.





The solidarity rally with the Chilean people was remarkable.

We have warned imperialists that we are not going to be subjugated; they are not going to prevent us from building our own fate by our own will.

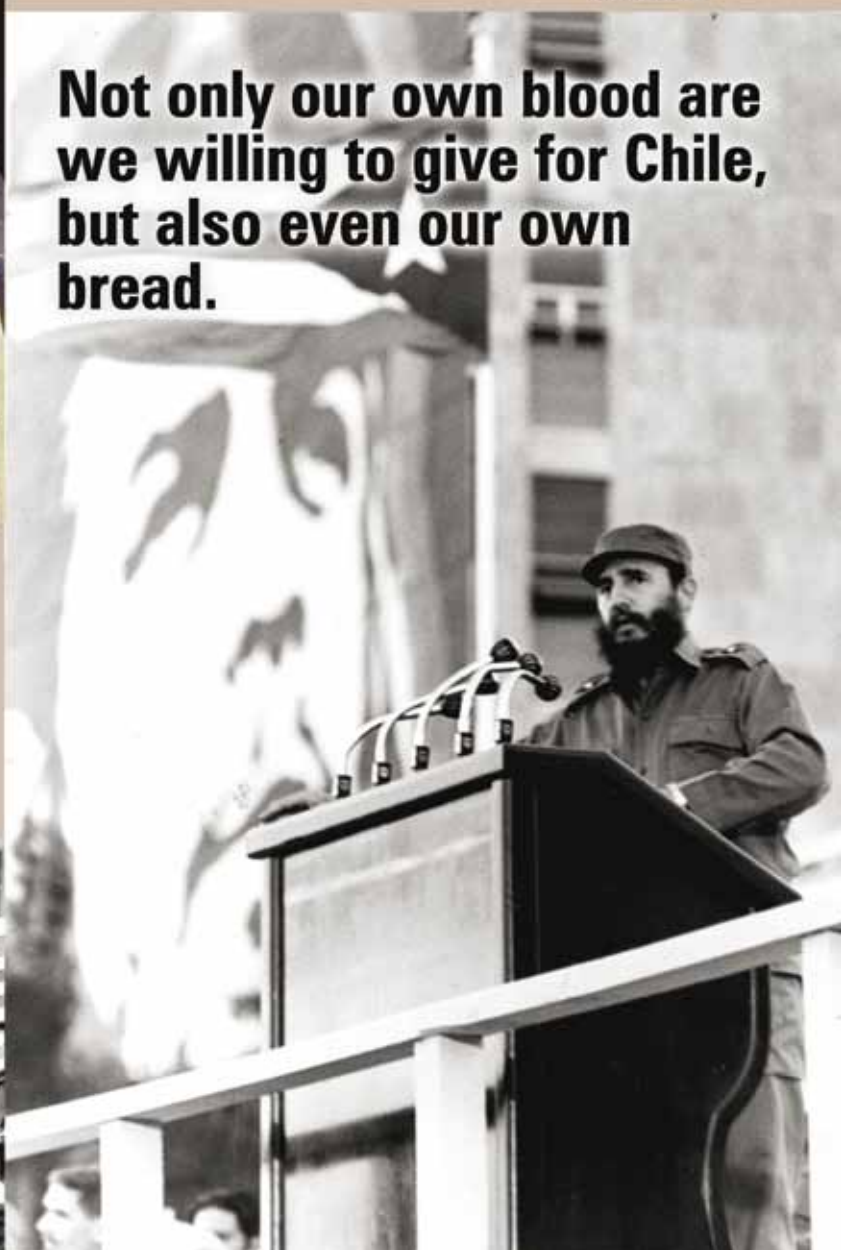
Allende

Not only our own blood are we willing to give for Chile, but also even our own bread.

"We cannot allow imperialism suffocate the Chilean people"

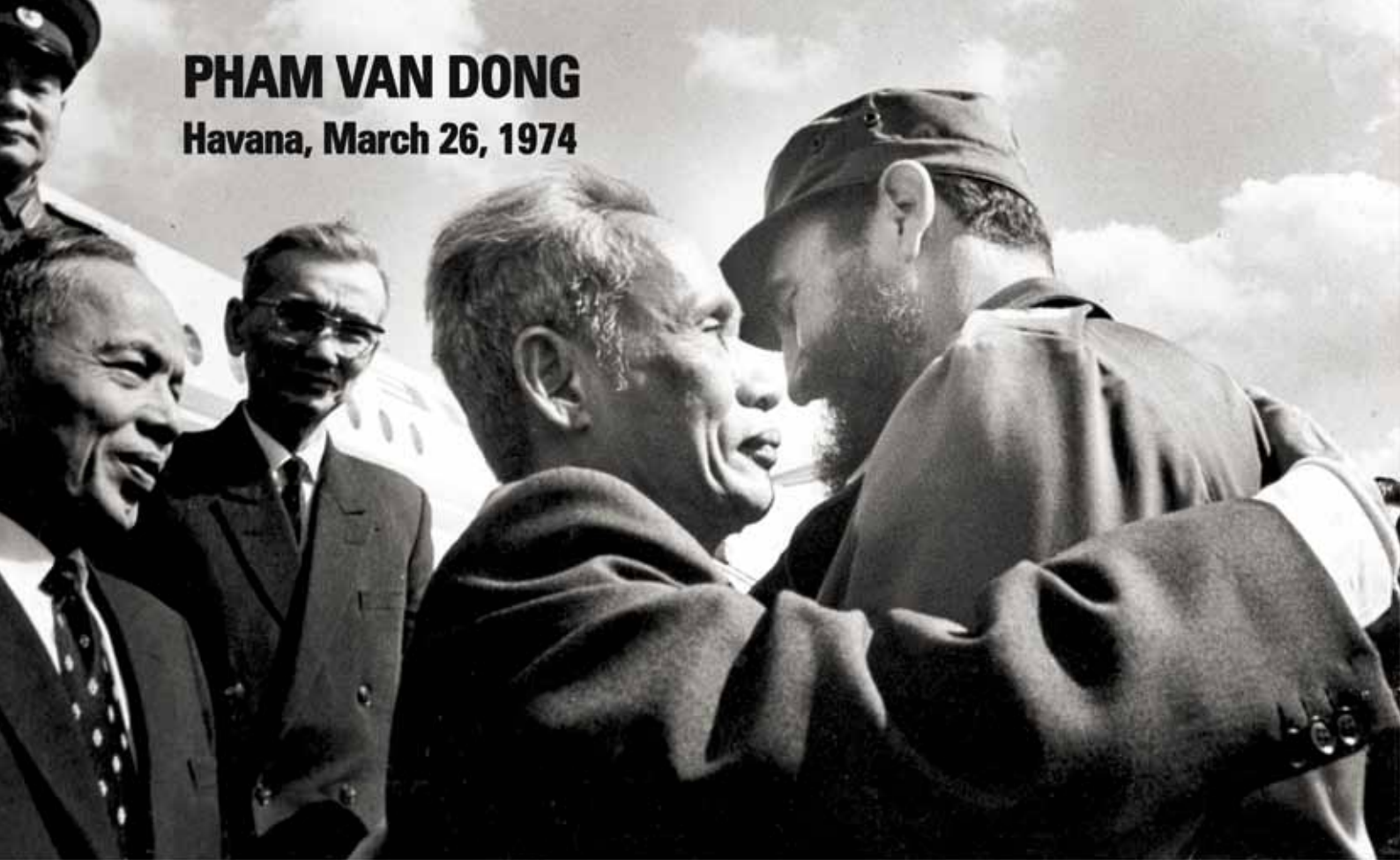
A huge wave of solidarity around the Chilean people has to be set in motion

Fidel



PHAM VAN DONG

Havana, March 26, 1974



One day we said, "For Vietnam we are willing, even to give our own blood."



Cuba is an inspiring example to follow, it is the source of new confidence and energy for the struggle of peoples.

For so long, the Vietnamese people has learned and admired the rebel and dedicated spirit of fight of the Cuban people for the independence and liberty of their homeland.

The Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro shine like a star of confidence and hope in the hearts of Latin American peoples.

"A hand must be given to build the ten times more beautiful Vietnam Ho Chi Minh spoke about and, later, we—all revolutionaries of the world—must thank Vietnam."

Imperialism came to Vietnam in an arrogant, haughty way; it left defeated, demoralized, and with a lesson not to ever forget.

Humanity does not forget and will never ever forget, it does not forgive and will never ever forgive the crimes of imperialism against the Vietnamese people!

Fidel

Phan Van Dong



EVO MORALES

April 29, 2006

WE ARE UNITED

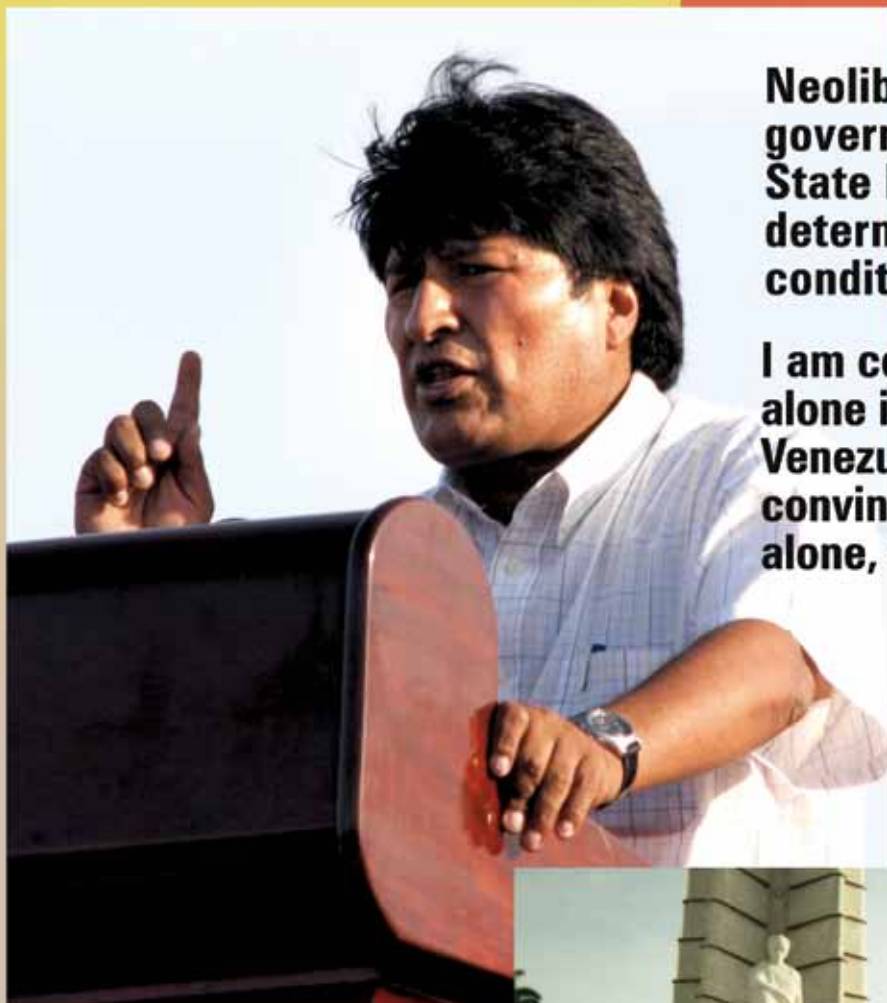
In Bolivia, the democratic revolution has succeeded to change that black history, that exploitation, and pillaging of our natural resources.

I am convinced that after achieving these agreements in the ALBA framework, and with the proposal we launched from Bolivia about the Peoples Trade Agreement (TCP), many triumphant governments in Latin America, will join this struggle.

The natural resources of the nation must be put in the hands of the State, i.e. the Bolivian people. Not only will hydrocarbons be nationalized, but also the same will happen to mining, wood, and natural resources.

Evo Morales





Neoliberal parties and governments left a begging State behind to us. And we are determined to change this condition.

I am convinced that we are not alone in Bolivia. But Cuba and Venezuela have also to be convinced that they are not alone, either: we are united.

Evo Morales



As recognition and congratulation to Cuba and to its leader, and on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of the Cuban leader, Evo Morales gave Fidel, as present, three pictures dedicated to Martí, to Ché and to the Cuban leader, respectively, all of them made with coca leaves.

April 29, 2006

HUGO CHÁVEZ

**BOLIVIA: THE
HEART OF SOUTH
AMERICA**

**Bolívar was one of the
greatest anti-imperialist
fighters of Latin America
and of The Caribbean.**

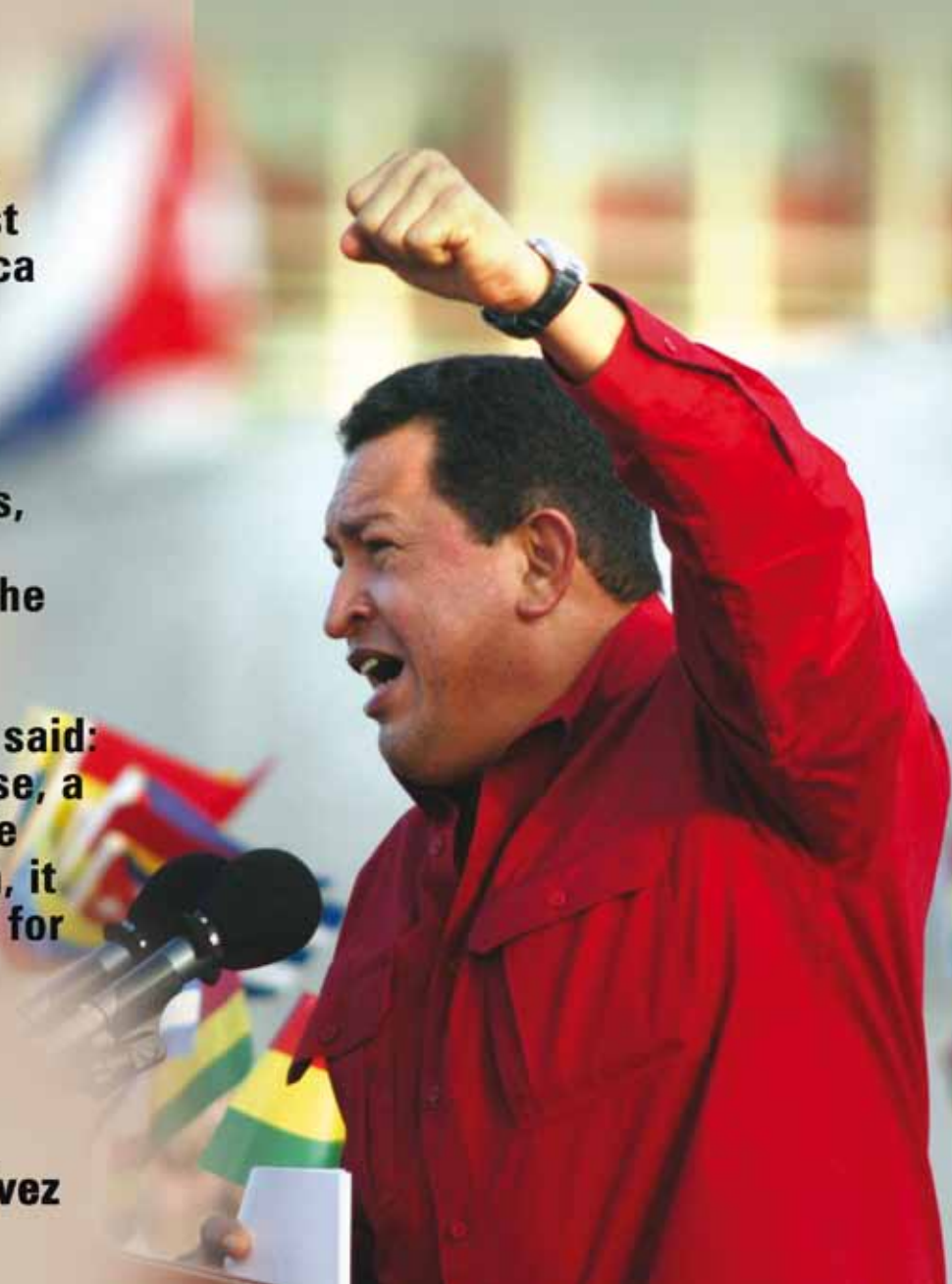
**I have no doubts that
Bolívar was evolving
towards Socialism. It is,
thus, so important for
Bolivia to have joined the
ALBA.**

**As Simón Bolívar once said:
"Bolivia is a compromise, a
challenge; Bolivia is the
heart of South America, it
is an unrestrained love for
liberty, for equality."**

Hugo Chávez

**We have built the foundation of
ALBA, a new integrating model
opposed to ALCA, against
imperialism, against capitalism.**

Hugo Chávez



OUR HEROES ARE BACK



The Bolivian people can count on us.

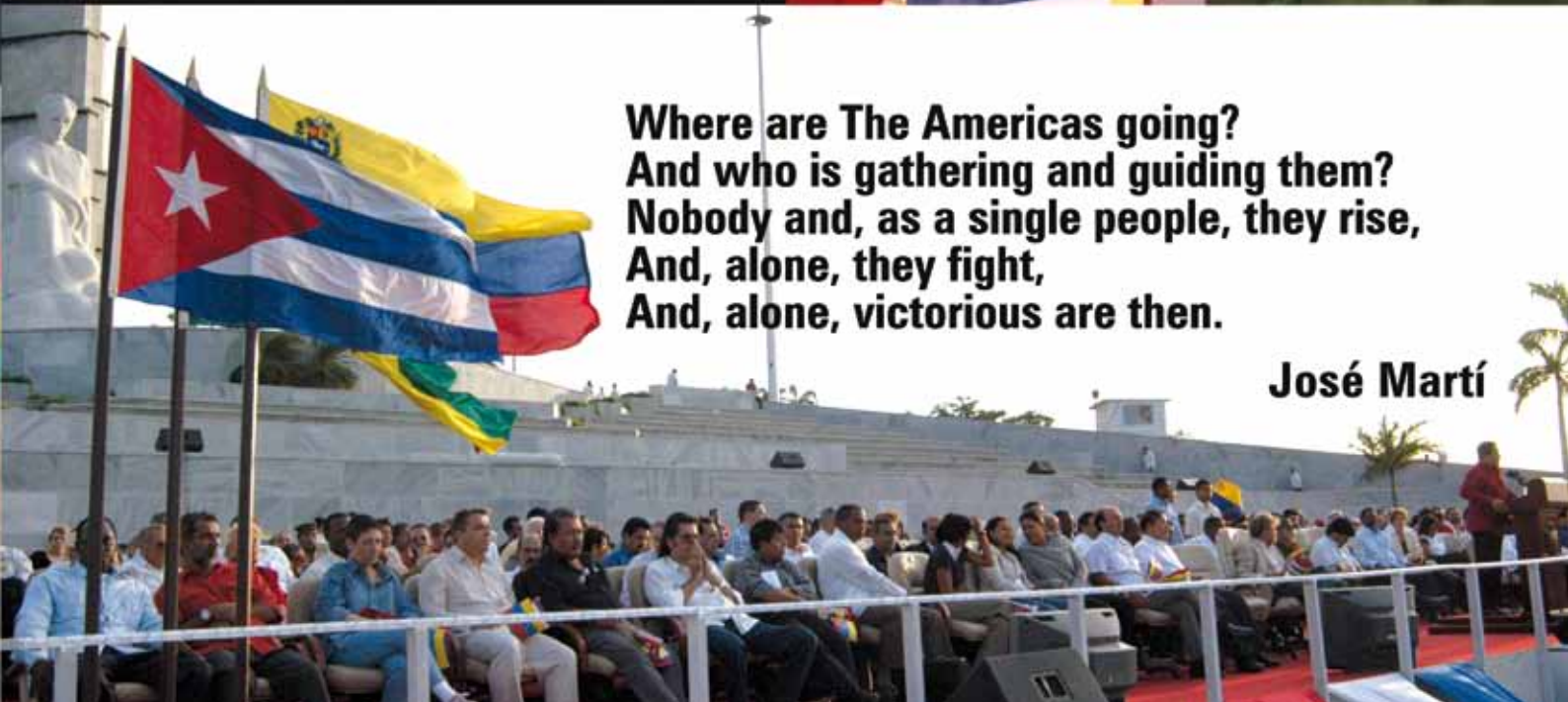
Now, Evo has come to join us and has proposed a tactic and strategic piece to give ALBA more importance: the Peoples Trade Agreement

Hugo Chávez



**Where are The Americas going?
And who is gathering and guiding them?
Nobody and, as a single people, they rise,
And, alone, they fight,
And, alone, victorious are then.**

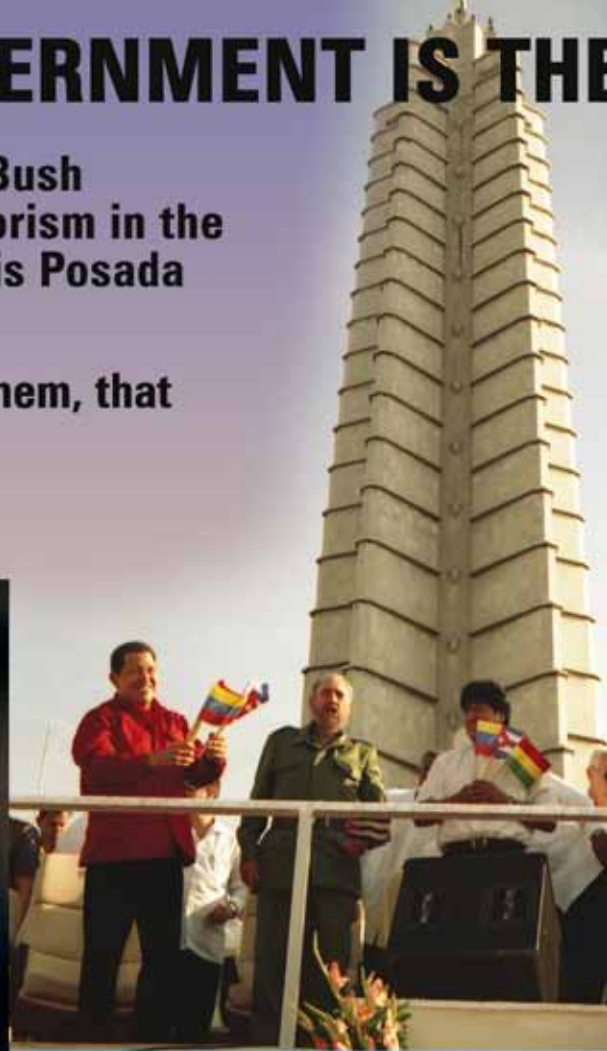
José Martí



THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS THE

U.S. administrations, particularly, George W. Bush Administration, have been accomplice of terrorism in the case of the renowned anti-Cuban assassin Luis Posada Carriles.

When there are a people and means to defend them, that people will never be subjugated.



E GREATEST ACCOMPLICE OF TERRORISM

They know very well that our people will never be subjugated, that, as long as there is a Cuban here in conditions to fight, the people will never be subjugated.

What I can do assure is that the U.S. government, with the so much propaganda to carry out, is the true accomplice of terrorism worldwide, as it does in the case of Posada Carriles, who was assisted to be released, to enter that country, and under protection at present.

I accuse U.S. President George W. Bush, as fundamental responsible, for everything I have said.

...For over forty years, we have been trying to build a new society. This is a country with a Socialist constitution well defined. Venezuela has been doing so fewer years, but we have been able to see how the thought of that process, and that of its fundamental inspirer: Hugo Chávez, develops and deepens.

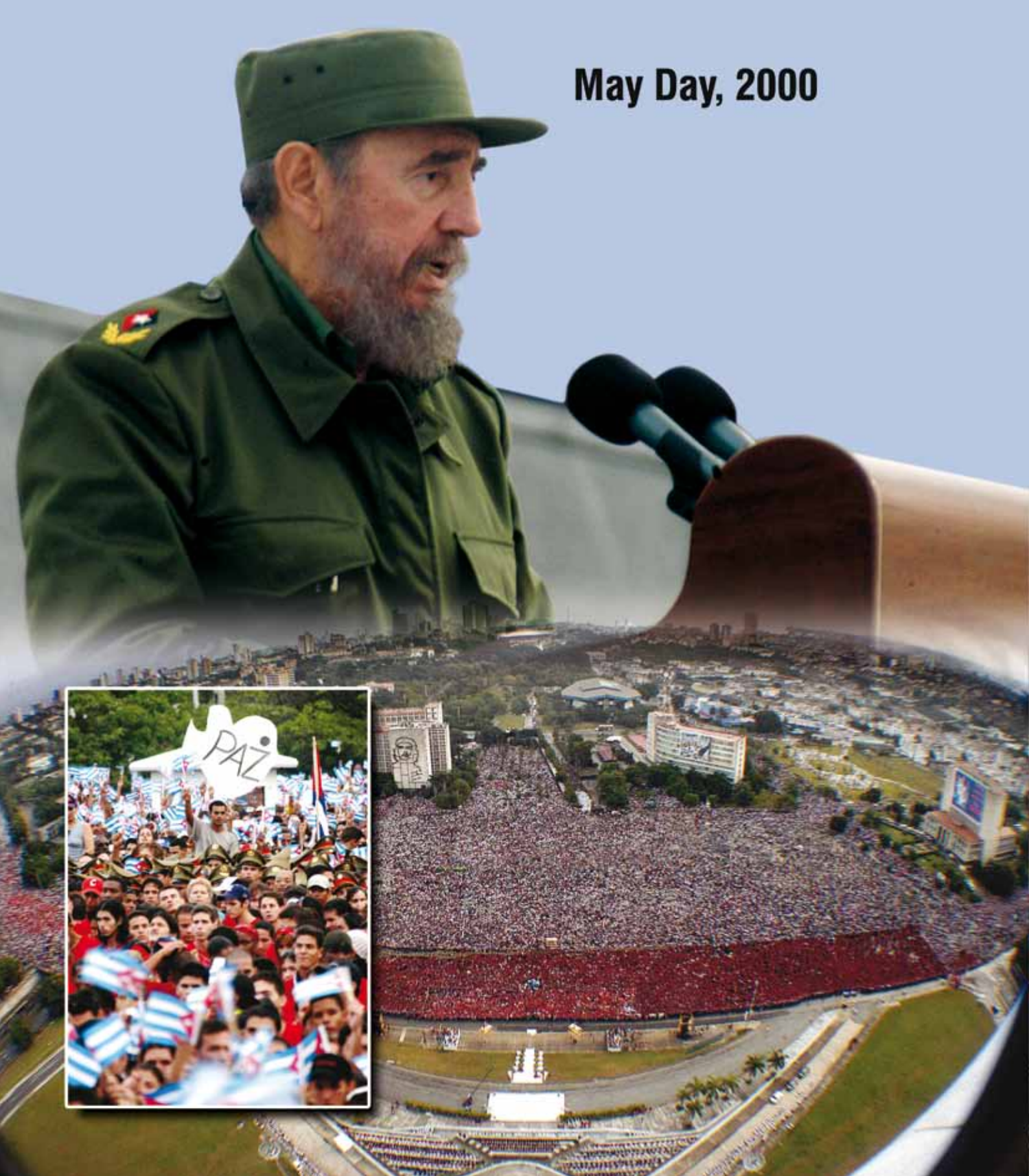
Chávez is building the Socialism 21st century. And that Socialism will have to be continually developed in the theoretical and practical fields.

We are so powerful for we are not interested in the things powers always imposed and wanted to achieve. We have the huge power of just ideas.

Fidel Castro



May Day, 2000

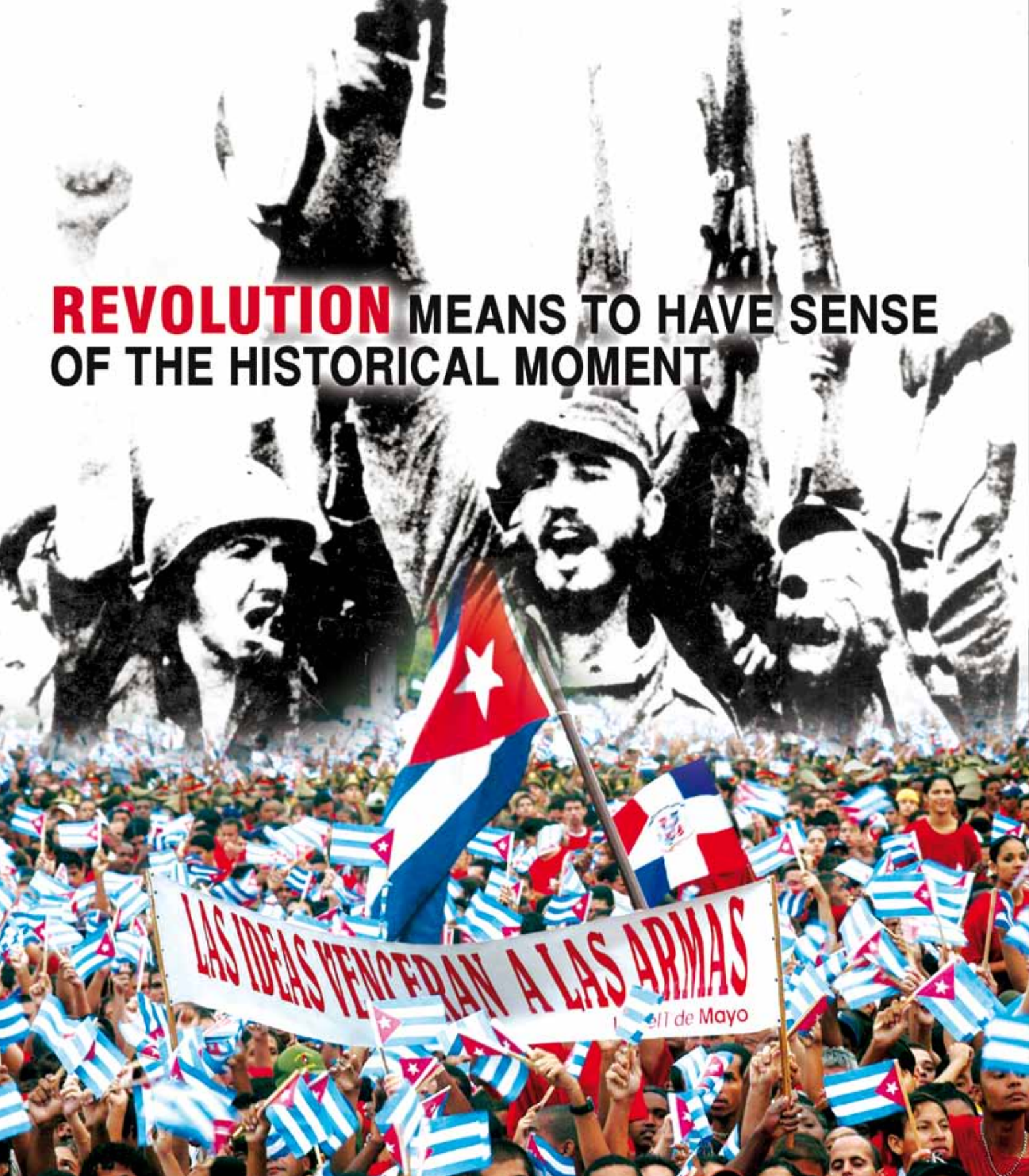


Free Tribune of youth, students, and workers at the REVOLUTION PLAZA

In this emblematic place, tribune of fights and achievements of the Cuban people, Fidel precisely sets the meaning of REVOLUTION



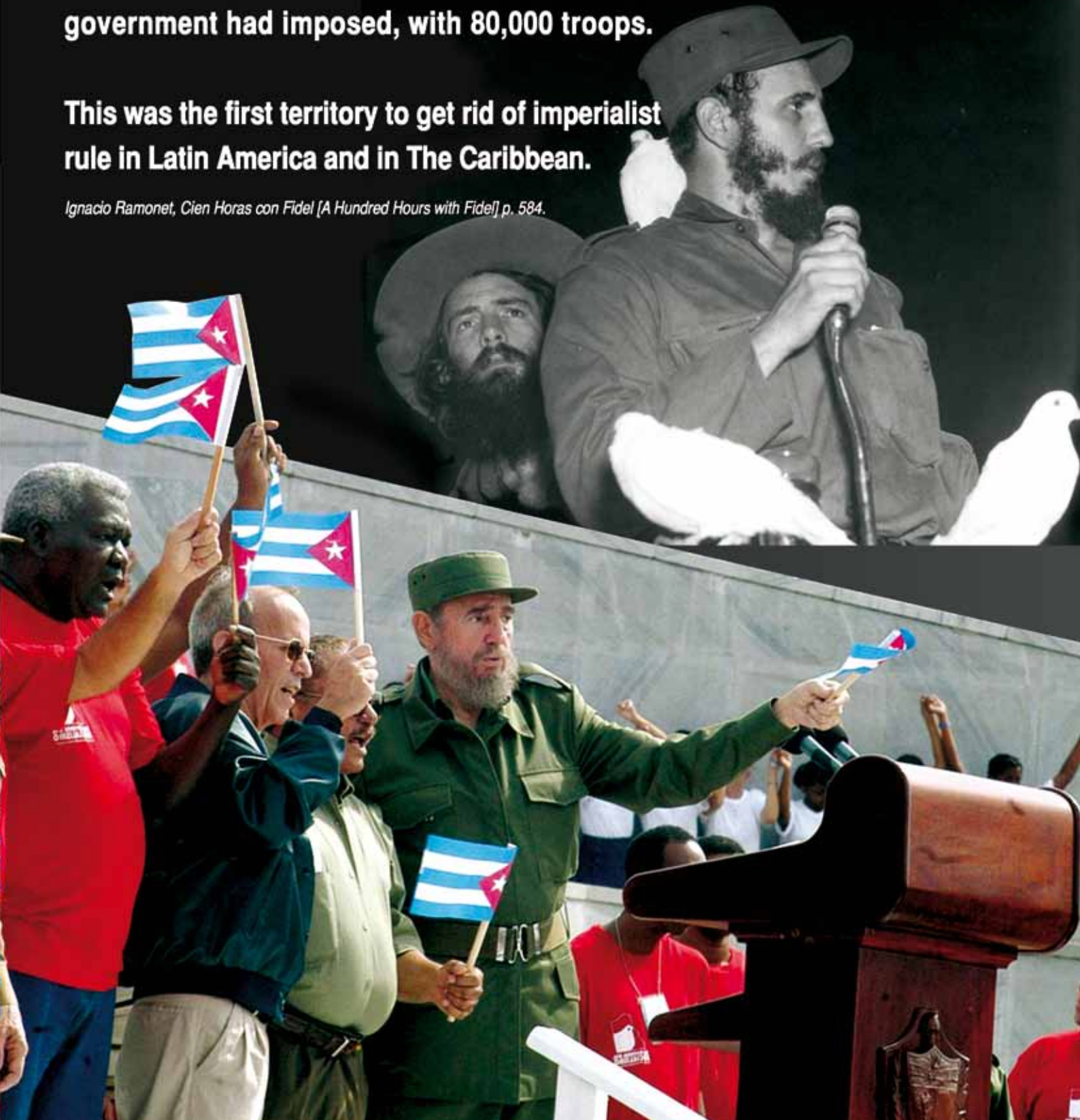
REVOLUTION MEANS TO HAVE SENSE
OF THE HISTORICAL MOMENT



With their own blood, and with the weapons taken from the enemy, the Cuban people defeated the cruel Batista's tyranny that U.S. government had imposed, with 80,000 troops.

This was the first territory to get rid of imperialist rule in Latin America and in The Caribbean.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] p. 584.

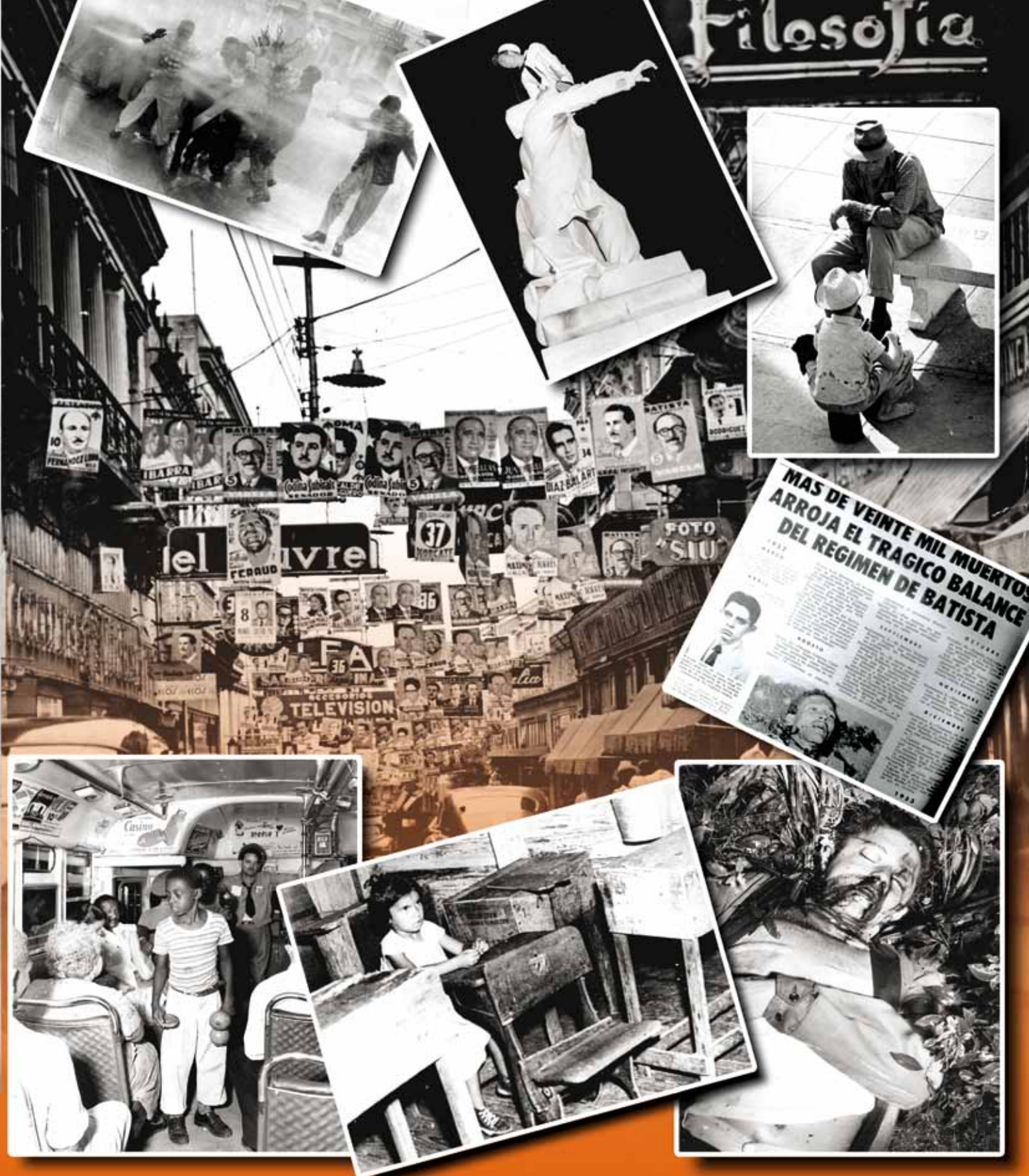


REVOLUTION MEANS CHANGING EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO BE CHANGED

...Throughout the post-colonial history, this is the only country in the Hemisphere where torturers, assassins and war criminals—who killed tens of thousands of people—were judged and exemplary sentenced.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] pp. 584-585.





REVOLUTION MEANS FULL LIBERTY AND EQUALITY

Under a strict blockade and economic warfare, which has lasted almost fifty years, Cuba was able to eliminate illiteracy in only a year...

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] p. 585.





REVOLUTION MEANS TO BE TREATED AND TO TREAT OTHERS LIKE HUMAN BEINGS



Social welfare provides protection to 100% of the Cuban population.

All children, with physical or mental disabilities, are studying in special schools.

A deep revolution is in progress to take medical care to population, in order to make medical assistance accessible to all, to preserve lives and to relieve pains.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] pp. 585-586.



REVOLUTION MEANS EMANCIPATING OURSELVES WITH OUR OWN EFFORTS

The Revolution totally rescued and gave land to peasants and agricultural workers. Natural resources, industries and fundamental services were put in the hands of the true owners: the Cuban nation.

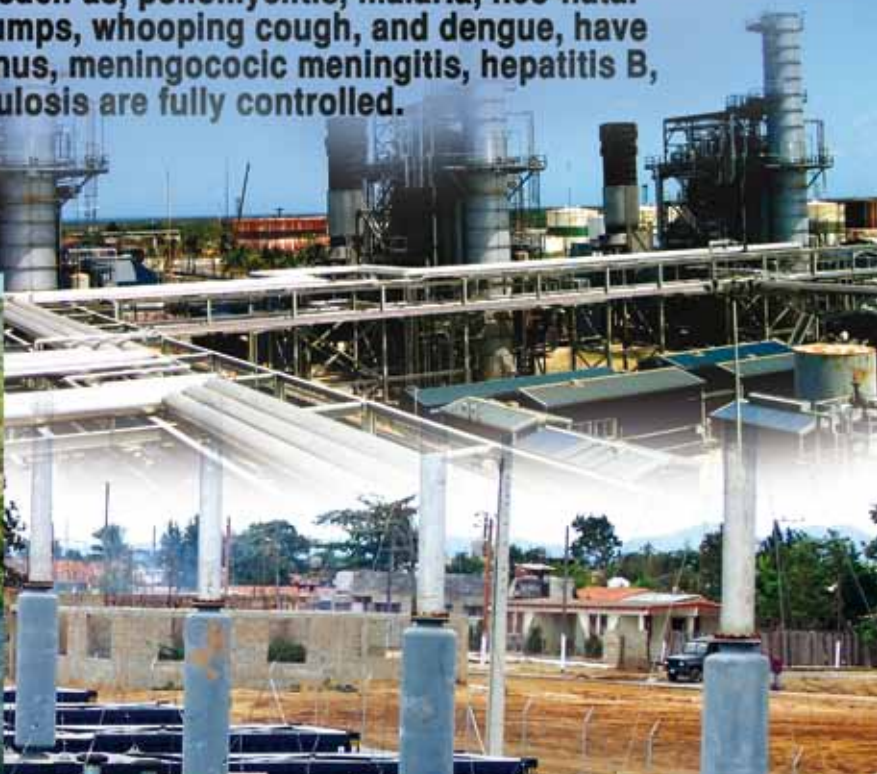
Scientific research, to the service of our people and of mankind, increase hundreds of times. Thanks to this effort, important medicaments save lives in Cuba and elsewhere.

Thanks to Revolution, free education reaches to 100% of children. Cuba has the highest score of school retention—over 99% between kindergarten and 9th grade—of all nations in the Hemisphere... Also, Cuban education has the first place, worldwide, with teachers percapita and the least amount of schoolers per classroom.



Infectious and transmissible diseases such as, poliomyelitis, malaria, neo-natal tetanus, measles, German measles, mumps, whooping cough, and dengue, have been eliminated; some others like tetanus, meningococic meningitis, hepatitis B, leprosy, hemophilic meningitis, tuberculosis are fully controlled.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel
[A Hundred Hours with Fidel] p. 586.



REVOLUTION MEANS MODESTY, SELFLESSNESS, ALTRUISM, SOLIDARITY AND HEROISM

Over half a million Cubans have fulfilled internationalist missions as combatants, teachers, technicians, physicians and paramedical workers. Tens of thousands of these last ones have saved million of lives for over forty years.

At present, over 3,000 general practitioners and other paramedical workers are working in the corners of 18 countries of the Third World. Through preventive and therapeutic methods, they are saving hundreds of thousands lives every year, preserving and providing free medical assistance to million of people.

Cuba has developed techniques to teach reading and writing over radio programs, with texts elaborated in five languages so far: Creole, Portuguese, French, English and Spanish, already put into practice in some countries.

No other country has so much got into the spirit of international solidarity.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] pp. 588-590.







REVOLUTION MEANS FIGHTING WITH AUDACITY, INTELLIGENCE, AND REALISM

In less than 72 hours, and continually fighting day and night, Cuba defeated the mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs, which was organized by the U.S. government, impeding, thus, a direct military intervention in that country, and a war of incalculable consequences.

Cuba defeated the "dirty warfare" spread all over the country, to a cost of lives much higher than that it paid for the liberation war.

Cuba firmly bore thousands of sabotage actions and terrorist attacks organized by the U.S. government.

Cuba frustrated hundreds of assassination attempts on leaders of the Revolution.

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] p. 585.



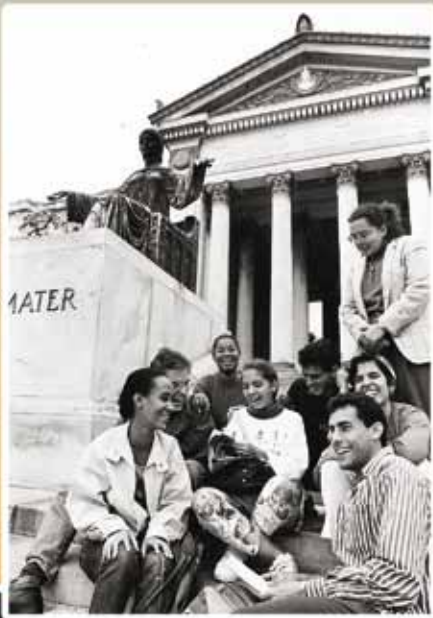


REVOLUTION MEANS NEVER LYING
OR VIOLATING ETHIC PRINCIPLES



REVOLUTION MEANS THE DEEP CONVICTION THAT THERE IS NO FORCE IN WORLD CAPABLE TO CRASH THE FORCE OF TRUTH AND OF IDEAS

Every citizen has the possibility to carry out free studies from kindergarten to a PhD degree.



Over 20,000 youngsters are developing their talents and vocational attitudes in an artist-and-art-training school system spread all over the country.

University campuses spread all municipalities of the country.



Development of healthy and amateur sport has led our country to the highest medal and honor positions worldwide.

Infant mortality has reduced from 60 for every thousand babies born alive to a figure that ranges between 6 and 6.5. This is the lowest rate in the Hemisphere from America to Patagonia.

President of UNICEF told me once that if Latin America had one day the level of medical assistance and care of Cuba, 700,000 children would save their lives every year...

Ignacio Ramonet, Cien Horas con Fidel [A Hundred Hours with Fidel] pp. 533-587.



REVOLUTION MEANS UNITY,
INDEPENDENCE, IT MEANS FIGHTING
FOR OUR DREAMS OF JUSTICE FOR
CUBA AND ELSEWHERE, WHICH IS THE
FOUNDATION OF OUR PATRIOTISM, OF
OUR SOCIALISM, AND OF OUR
INTERNATIONALISM





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Eusebio Leal Spengler (Historian of the City).

List of Designers per Sections

Francisco Masvidal:

Construction of the PLAZA / May Day, 1959 / Giant Dinner, 1966 / Simultaneous Chess Match, 1966 / Barbados Mourning Service, 1976 / Military Parade, 1976 / Leaders at Plaza / May Day, 2000.

Eugenio Sagués:

First Declaration of Havana, 1960 / Military Parade, January 2, 1961 / Plaza Renamed / Yuri Gagarin's Visit, 1961 / Literacy Campaign, 1961 / May Day, 1967 / Night Watching, 1967 / Che at Plaza / Pope's Visit.

Roberto Chávez:

May 8, 1959 / José Martí Memorial Opening.

There are places that perpetuate the historical memoir of peoples, their happiness, grieves, and their most transcendental decisions. They are places that surpass among the hundred and thousand ones for the indelible track of people's life remains in them. This is the highest point, the geographical reference of the capital city of the nation, and of its pulse.

In Cuba, this place is undoubtedly the REVOLUTION PLAZA for during tens of years, after the triumph of the Revolution, on January 1, 1959, it has been the core of the rebel and indomitable Cuban people.

The Monument dedicated to José Martí and its Memorial, named after him, are reminding us that he is alive and present, in the emblematic site of his ideas, of the Revolution, once started in the maniguas, and safeguarded by millions of Cubans at present, who are determined to make the necessary sacrifice before the seven-league giant can fall over it.



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