



the Cuban Revolution?

The true history of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship

In the 1950s, Cuba was much more than Havana, with its intense nightlife, cabarets, luxury hotels, brand-new Fords and Chevrolets, and visits by glittering stars like Sarita Montiel and Nat King Cole.

Another Havana existed, the real Cuba, the one shown in the pages of this book through extensive documentation from that period, surveys by private institutions, press clippings, and abundant photographic testimony by those who would go every day into the cities and countryside, digging for news and to denounce that ruthless, dependent and underdeveloped capitalism, plagued with social inequalities, massive unemployment, illiteracy, and crushing, shameful poverty on all sides. Corruption and repression.

With this book we present to you with irrefutable and powerful testimony that other Cuba, the one we must not forget so that it will never return.

Why the Cuban Revolution?

The true history of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship



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La verdadera historia de la dictadura de Fulgencio Batista

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

MARTÍ ★ ★



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

MARTÍ ★ ★

Cuban people! Again we have a dictator, but again there is oppression in our country, but some day again the

Fidel Castro Ruz, March 1952

At the Columbia base, wearing his jacket, Batista is seen surrounded by uniformed men. The troops cheer him, flatter him and make him feel like a god. And the man who carried out the September 4th coup prepares to reinitiate his dictatorship. However, this new stage will be far worse than the first, more replete with crimes, more bloodstained.



En Columbia, con el jacket puesto, Batista aparece rodeado de hombres de uniforme. La tropa le da vítores, le adula y le endiosa. Y el que dio el golpe del 4 de septiembre prepara para reiniciar su dictadura. Sólo que esta nueva etapa sería más cruenta, más colmada de crí-



There will be more Mellas, Trejos and Guiteras. There
There will be freedom.



10 de MARZO ★ INICIO de la TRAGEDIA

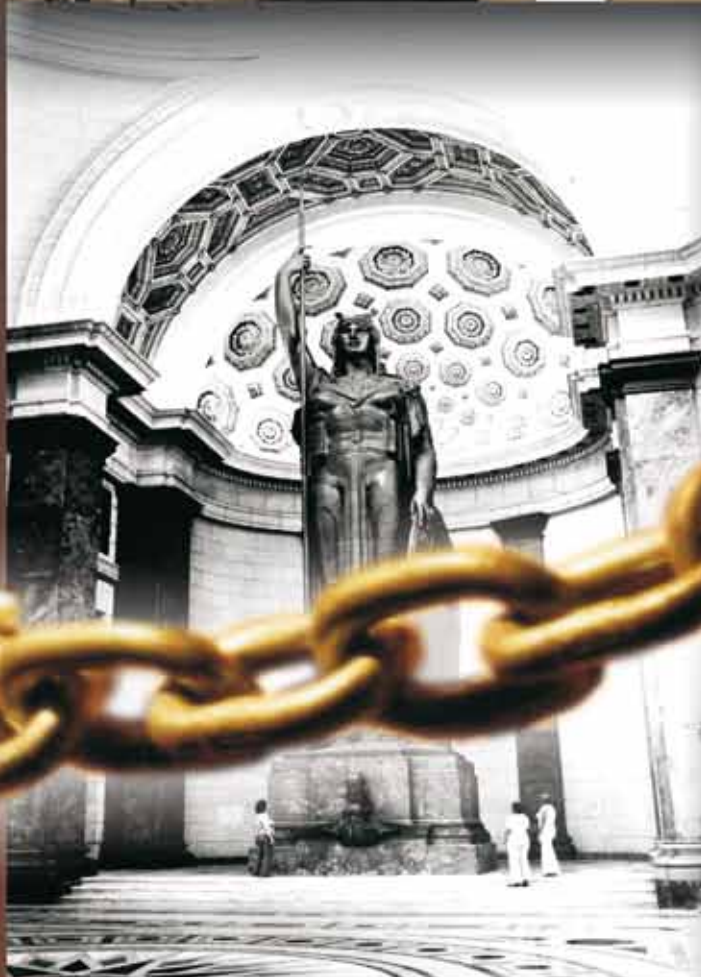
Los tanques están ante
el Palacio de la Presi-
dencia. La bota, el cas-
co y la fusta se impo-
nen sobre el poder civil
la república. Fulgen-
tista ha dado el
de estado

Only one man, over all these centuries, has
stained with blood two different periods of our
historical existence and has ripped his claws
into the flesh of two generations of Cubans.
...a man who, moreover, has not been loyal,
sincere, or honorable, or a gentleman, for a
single moment of his public life.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*
(self-defense speech during the Moncada trial, in a courtroom
guarded by soldiers bearing rifles with fixed bayonets, on
October 16, 1953).



Under Decree-Law 94, signed by Batista on March 10, eight retired former officers who were unconditionally loyal to him were reinstated to the army. Seven years later, more than a few of them were remembered bitterly by the Cuban people. The Senate and the House of Representatives were rendered inoperative. The Law of Public Order went into effect, making illegal meetings of more than two people or any anti-government demonstrations.





Three and half weeks later, on April 4th, the so-called Fundamental Law of the Republic was passed, better known as the Constitutional Statutes.

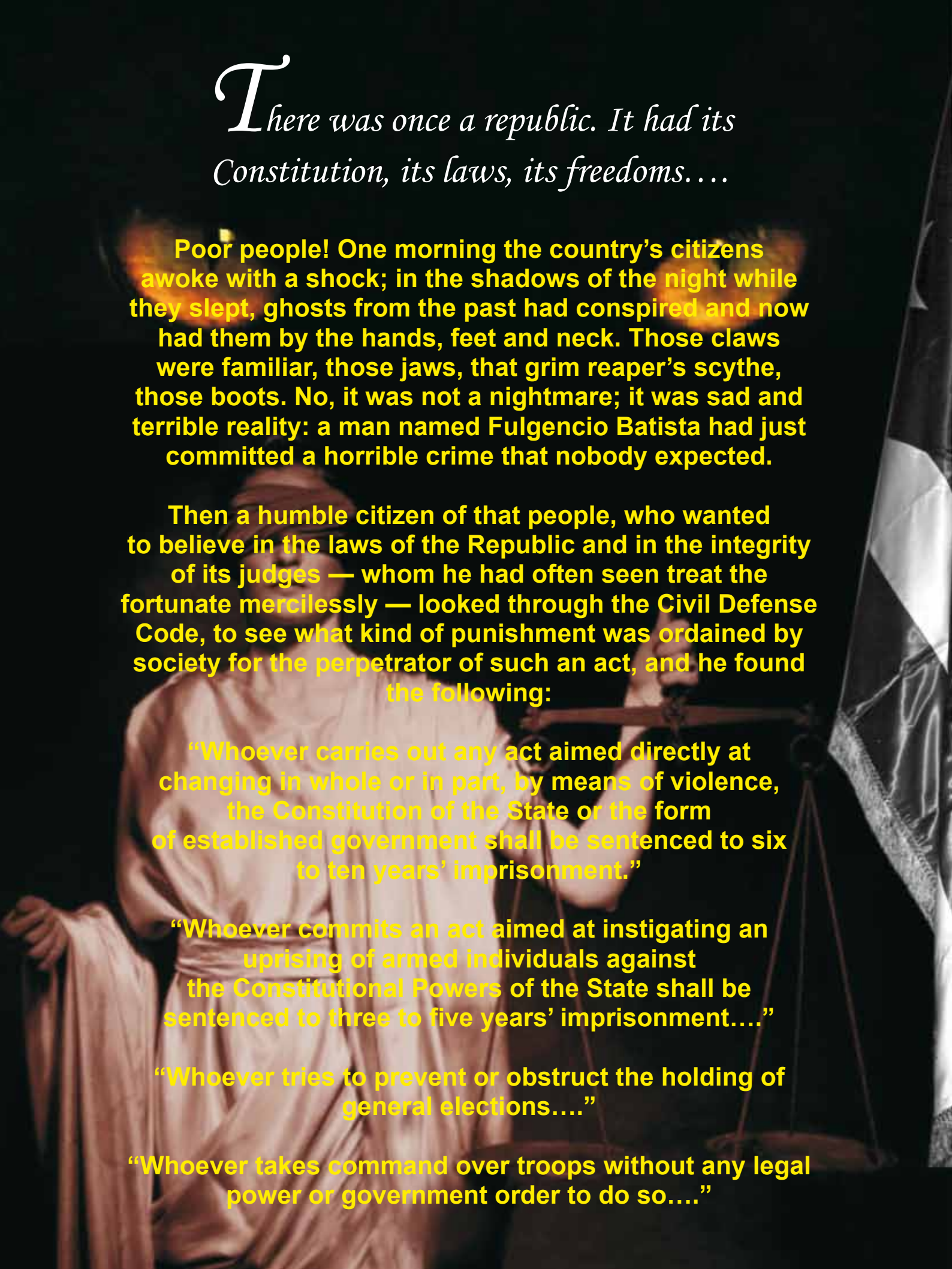
It established that the government would be constituted by a president of the Republic, a council of ministers and a consultative council. The members of the consultative council were appointed by the president; the council's only right was to "make itself heard" to the council of ministers. The council of ministers appointed the president, but, ironically, the president appointed the council of ministers.



The judges of the Supreme Court, upon whom the entire justice system depended, also were appointed by the president. **THUS, THE PRESIDENT HELD BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS AND DECISIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE JUDICIAL POWER.**



THIS SAME LAW REPEALED THE AUTONOMOUS NATURE OF THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH ALLOWED FOR THE REMOVAL AND IMPOSITION OF GOVERNORS, MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE PRESIDENT'S WHIM AND TO BENEFIT HIS HACKS, WHO WENT ALL OUT IN THEIR PLUNDER OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.



*There was once a republic. It had its
Constitution, its laws, its freedoms...*

Poor people! One morning the country's citizens awoke with a shock; in the shadows of the night while they slept, ghosts from the past had conspired and now had them by the hands, feet and neck. Those claws were familiar, those jaws, that grim reaper's scythe, those boots. No, it was not a nightmare; it was sad and terrible reality: a man named Fulgencio Batista had just committed a horrible crime that nobody expected.

Then a humble citizen of that people, who wanted to believe in the laws of the Republic and in the integrity of its judges — whom he had often seen treat the fortunate mercilessly — looked through the Civil Defense Code, to see what kind of punishment was ordained by society for the perpetrator of such an act, and he found the following:

"Whoever carries out any act aimed directly at changing in whole or in part, by means of violence, the Constitution of the State or the form of established government shall be sentenced to six to ten years' imprisonment."

"Whoever commits an act aimed at instigating an uprising of armed individuals against the Constitutional Powers of the State shall be sentenced to three to five years' imprisonment...."

"Whoever tries to prevent or obstruct the holding of general elections...."

"Whoever takes command over troops without any legal power or government order to do so...."

Without saying a word to anyone, with the Code in one hand and papers in another, the aforementioned citizen appeared in the old mansion in the capital where the appropriate court operated and which was under obligation to bring charges against and punish those responsible for that act, and he filed a document denouncing the crimes and requesting a sentence of eight years' imprisonment for Fulgencio Batista and his seventeen accomplices, as stipulated by Civil Defense Code considering all the aggravating circumstances of recidivism, premeditation, and being carried out under cover of darkness.
The days and months passed. What a disappointment!

“Honorable Judges: I am that humble citizen who one day demanded in vain that the Courts punish the power-hungry men who had violated the law and torn our institutions to shreds...”

Fidel Castro

History Will Absolve Me

SOLO LA MORALIDAD
DE LOS INDIVIDUOS
CONSERVA EL ESPLENDOR
DE LAS NACIONES.

Only the morality
of individuals preserves
the splendor of nations.

José Martí

He was not content with the treachery of January, dollar fortune that crowned his first regime.

The sergeants Pablo Rodríguez, José Eleuterio Pedraza, Manuel López Migoya, Mario Alfonso Hernández and the clerk sergeant Fulgencio Batista were part of the so-called Defense Committee or the Committee of Eight.

On September 4th, Batista assumes he has been discovered and moves his plan up to that same night. By 8 p.m., he is practically holding power. On the 8th, he becomes a colonel and takes over the army headquarters, despite the fact that he had repeatedly sworn by his own wife and young daughter that he had no personal ambitions.



On October 2, 1933, about 400 army and navy officers concentrated in the Hotel Nacional following the coup surrendered to their former subordinates after fierce resistance.

1934, the crimes of March, 1935 and the forty million

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

As the last 70 who came out of the hotel disarmed were waiting in the gardens, Batista arrived in an armored Lincoln and ordered the guards to leave the prisoners alone. Then a whistle was heard, and a large number of armed civilians burst onto the scene, firing pistols and revolvers at the defenseless officers.

One month later, during the November 8-9 uprising of 1933, some 1,000 to 1,500 civilians, former military officers, and active duty soldiers, all government opponents, sought refuge in the Castle of Atarés. At 3 p.m., many of them came out and began walking downhill, waving white



handkerchiefs. A repeat of the Hotel Nacional events followed. Civilians and soldiers fired on men who had surrendered. Mario Alfonso Hernández, a soldier who was part of the Committee of Eight, and who was a captain and assistant to Batista, approached a group of prisoners

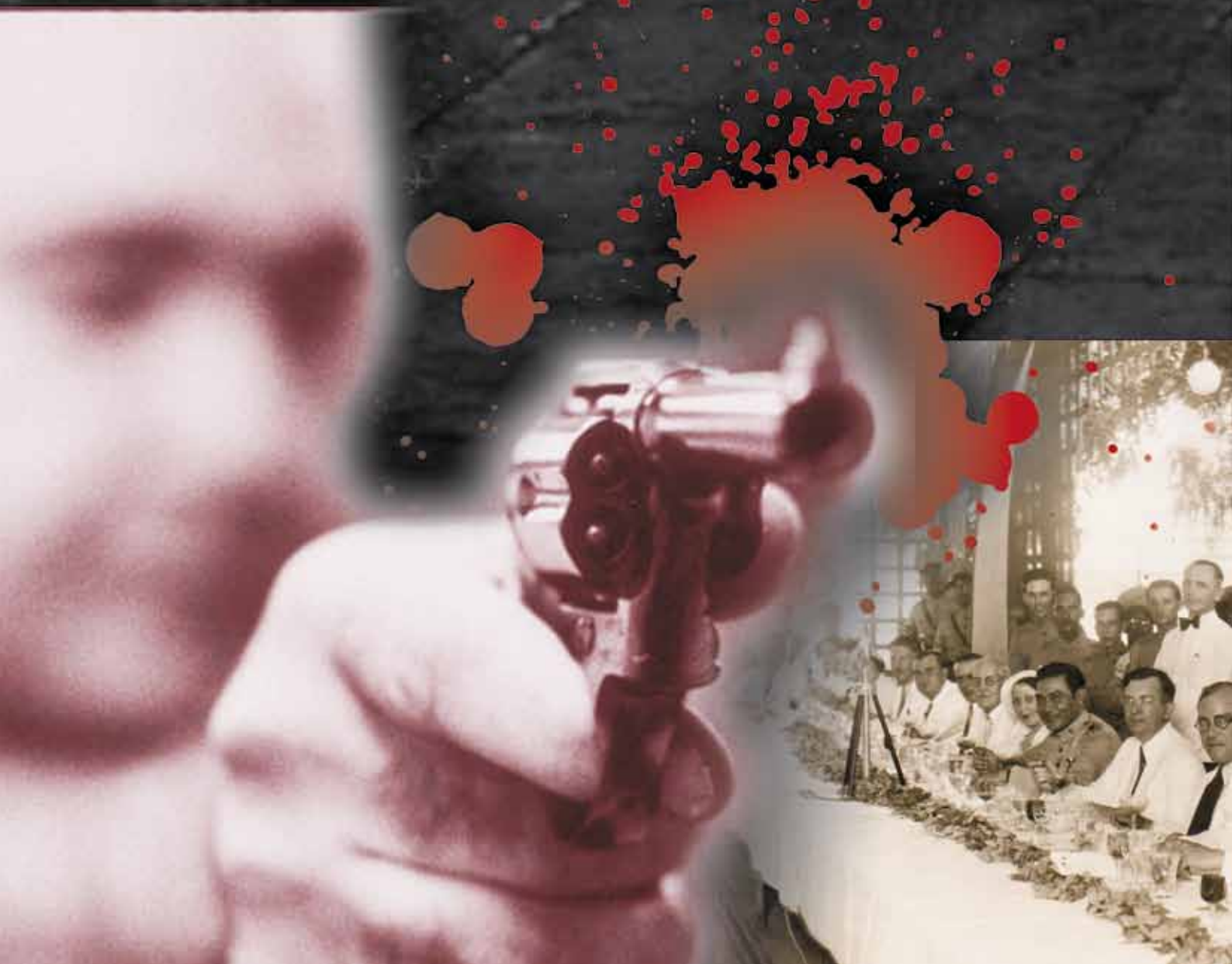


and asked for Blas Hernández. The latter was on the ground, wounded, and looked up to respond. The captain, pointing his pistol at his head, said, **“You are not going to rebel again,” and pulled the trigger.**

In August 1934, Mario Alfonso Hernández, now a lieutenant colonel and commander of the Juan Rius Rivera Regiment in Pinar del Rio, asked the commander in chief of the army to fulfill the Committee of Eight agreement providing for the rotational nature of the armed forces' leadership. Batista did not reply immediately, but agreed to provide a response.

Early in the morning, they knocked on the door of his house. He asked who it was, and after identifying the caller, confidently opened the door.

They shot him down with a machine gun in front of his wife. **That was the answer that Colonel Batista had decided to send him.**





Batista becomes consolidated as Cuba's strongman, appoints and removes presidents at his whim, and in 1940, runs for president.



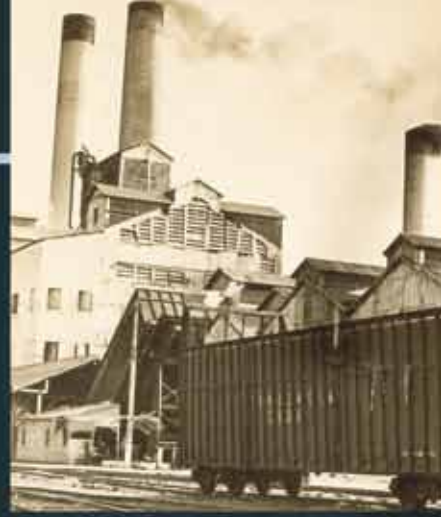
The head table at a grand banquet in honor of colonel Batista, in the gardens of the Bacardí building.



Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar

One of his first properties was the Compañía de Inmuebles S.A., created in 1936, just three years after he rose from the rank of sergeant and took power.

In 1941 he bought the Washington Sugar Mill; in 1949, the Constancia, and in 1958, the Andorra.



How did he become general?

...On the night of September 8, 1933, by virtue of Decree-law 1538, Batista went from being a first sergeant (clerk) to colonel, the highest rank in the Cuban army at the time....

On January 27, 1942, under Batista's presidency, Agreement-Law No. 7 is passed, also known as the Organic Law of the Army and Navy....

As part of that law, Batista established a provision that paints a perfect portrait of him. It says: "The highest-ranking retired officer, who has filled the position of chief of the Army and who holds or has held the office of president of the Republic, shall appear in the special relationship or post of officers in the same situation, with the highest rank or hierarchy recognized by this law." That highest rank was major general, and Batista met the requirements.

Not content with his self-promotion, he set out to consolidate his position. To do so, he changed the Armed Forces Retirement Law by adding a new article, No. 48, which says: "The retired military officer who occupies the presidency of the Republic shall not receive any pension whatsoever while filling that position...."

WE FORGET NOTHING



Kuquine Estate.



Batista's earliest justifications of the treacherous March 10th military coup masked the reduction of the fabulous fortune he accumulated in the eleven years of his first dictatorship, and his record of conspiracy, based on the conviction that he would not become president by any legal means.



In order to annul his first marriage, he had to give his first wife four million pesos. From 1944 to 1948, he traveled through much of the Americas on an extravagant luxury train. He installed himself on a floor of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York and later had a sumptuous residence built on Daytona Beach in the southern United States.





When he returned to Cuba in November 1948 — thanks to the liberal democratic coalition from Las Villas province, which carried out an act of Senate that cost him another fortune — he continued his wealthy lifestyle on Kuquine Estate, and was obliged to significantly increase his spending to set up and maintain the United Action Party (PAU), barely bringing together a few minor politicians of little prestige.



A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF SHAMELESSNESS AND CYNICISM, BATISTA WAS CHARACTERIZED BY HIS UNSCRUPULOUSNESS, INDIGNITY, AND EGOMANIA.

**IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE
10TH OF MARCH,
TRULY DESTRUCTIVE
ACTIONS BEGAN
TO TAKE PLACE,
PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED
TO HAVE BEEN
FOREVER STAMPED
OUT IN CUBA:**

There was an unprecedented attack on a cultural institution: a radio station was stormed by the thugs of the Military Intelligence Service (SIM) and the young hoodlums of the PAU, during a broadcast of the 'University of the Air' program. And there was the



case of the journalist Mario Kuchilán, dragged from his home in the middle of the night and brutally tortured until he was nearly unconscious. There was

the murder of the student Rubén Batista and the criminal firing on a peaceful student demonstration next to the wall where Spanish volunteers shot the medical students in 1871. And many cases such as that of Dr. García Bárcena, where in the middle of courtrooms, men have coughed up blood because of the barbaric tortures to which they were subjected by the repressive security forces.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



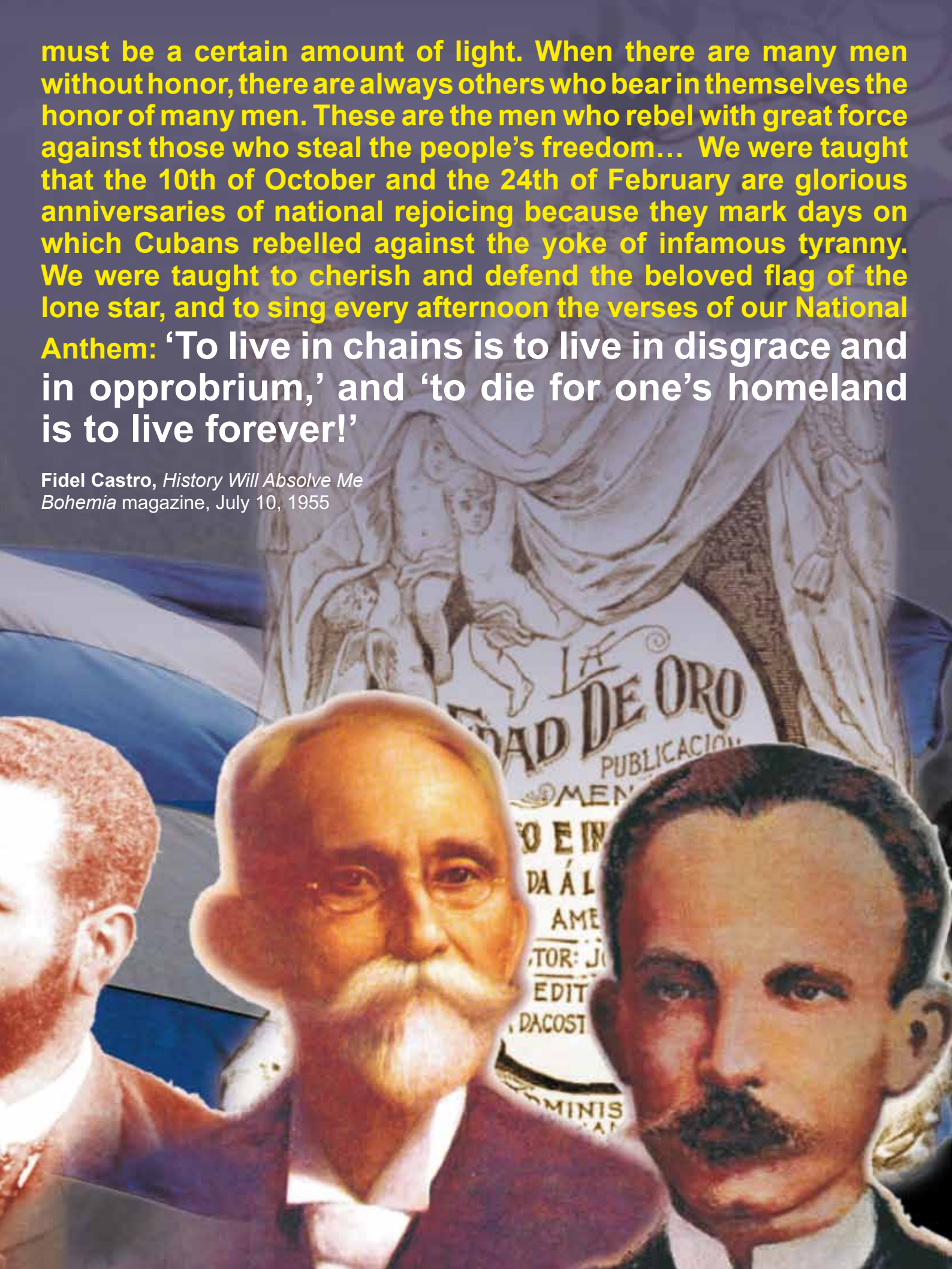
WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

We are Cubans and to be Cuban implies a duty; not to fulfill that duty is a crime, is treason. We are proud of the history of our country; we learned it in school and have grown up hearing of freedom, justice and human rights. We were taught to venerate the glorious example of our heroes and martyrs. Céspedes, Agramonte, Maceo, Gómez and Martí were the first names engraved in our minds. We were taught that the Titan once said that liberty is not begged for but won with the blade of a machete. We were taught that for the guidance of Cuba's free citizens, the Apostle wrote in his book The Golden Age: 'The man who abides by unjust laws and permits any man to trample and mistreat the country in which he was born is not an honorable man ... In the world there must be a certain degree of honor just as there must be a certain amount of light. When there are many men must be



must be a certain amount of light. When there are many men without honor, there are always others who bear in themselves the honor of many men. These are the men who rebel with great force against those who steal the people's freedom... We were taught that the 10th of October and the 24th of February are glorious anniversaries of national rejoicing because they mark days on which Cubans rebelled against the yoke of infamous tyranny. We were taught to cherish and defend the beloved flag of the lone star, and to sing every afternoon the verses of our National Anthem: 'To live in chains is to live in disgrace and in opprobrium,' and 'to die for one's homeland is to live forever!'

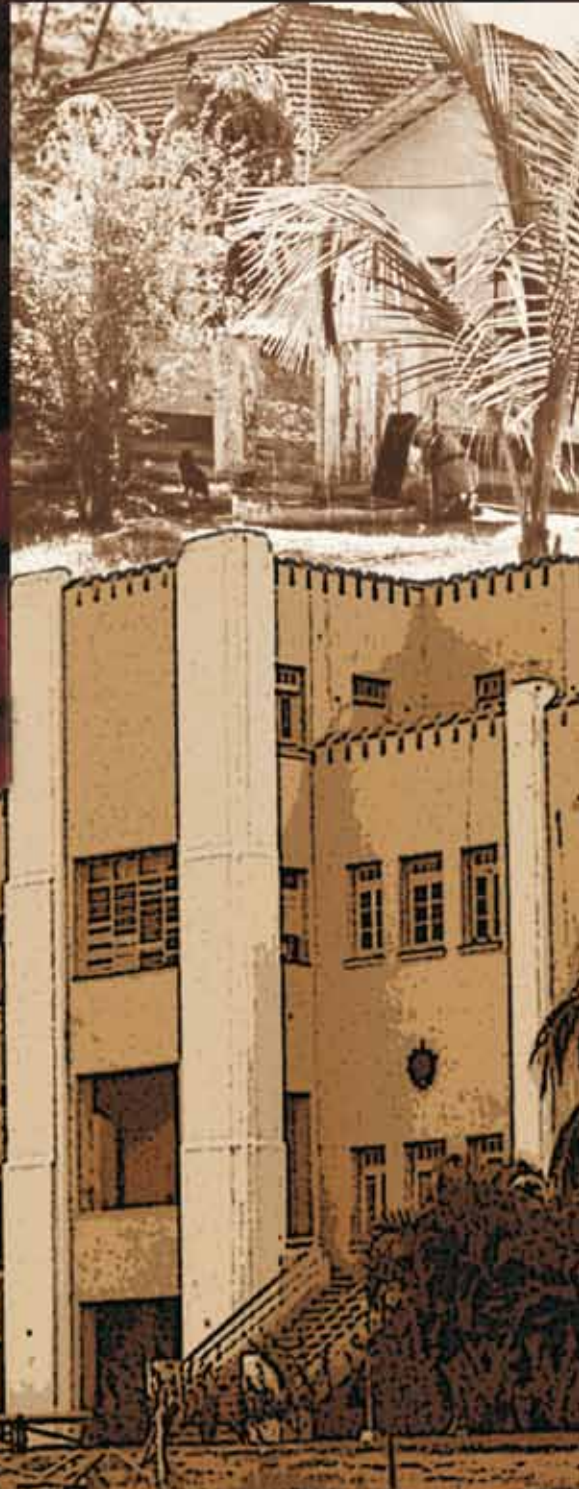
Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*
Bohemia magazine, July 10, 1955



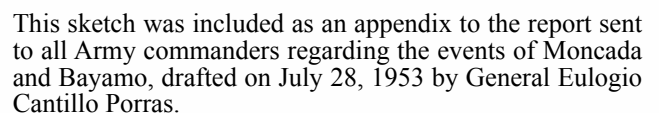
MONCADA: THE FIRST BLOW

It seemed that the Apostle would die during his Centennial. It seemed that his memory would be extinguished forever. So great was the affront! But he is alive; he has not died. His people are rebellious. His people are worthy. His people are faithful to his memory. There are Cubans who have fallen defending his doctrines. There are young men who in magnificent selflessness came to die beside his tomb, giving their blood and their lives so that he could keep on living in the heart of his nation. Cuba, what would have become of you had you let your Apostle die?

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



A sepia-toned photograph of two men in military uniforms standing in front of a white building with a tiled roof. A large palm tree is on the left. Below the photo is a stylized, high-contrast illustration of the same scene, featuring a tall guard post and a fence.



It was even more difficult to organize, train, and mobilize men and weapons under a repressive regime that spent millions of pesos on espionage, bribery, and informants, but those young people and others carried out the task with truly incredible seriousness, discretion and perseverance....

The final mobilization of men who came to this province from the most remote towns of the entire island was accomplished with admirable precision and in absolute secrecy....

ASALTADO "MONCADA"

48 MUERTOS Y 29 HERIDOS

Trágico Balance en
el Frustrado Intento

Prensa
UNIVERSAL

③ Declaraciones del
General F. Batista

Loca Aventura de un Grupo de Jóvenes



From the beginning, we took numerous prisoners - nearly twenty - and there was one moment when three of our men - Ramiro Valdés, José Suárez and Jesús Montané - managed to enter one of the barracks and hold nearly fifty soldiers prisoner for a short time. Those soldiers testified before the Court, and without exception they all acknowledged that we treated them with absolute respect, that we did not subject them to a single abusive remark....

The clash with the patrol (purely accidental, since the unit could have been at that point twenty seconds earlier or twenty seconds later) alerted the camp, and gave it time to mobilize. Otherwise it would have fallen into our hands without a shot fired, since we already controlled the guard post. On the other hand, except for the .22 caliber rifles, for which there were plenty of bullets, our side was very short of ammunition. Had we had hand grenades, the Army would not have been able to resist us for fifteen minutes....



**53 MUERTOS EN BAYAMO
Y SANTIAGO**
Acuerda el Consejo suspender
las garantías por noventa días

When I became convinced that all efforts to occupy the barracks were useless, I began to withdraw our men in groups of eight and ten. Our retreat was covered by six expert marksmen under the command of Pedro Miret and Fidel Labrador; heroically, they held off the Army's advance. Our losses in the battle had been insignificant; 95% of our casualties came from the Army's cruelty and inhumanity after the struggle....

But the mass murder of prisoners did not begin until after three o'clock in the afternoon. Until this hour they awaited orders. Then General Martín Díaz Tamayo arrived from Havana and brought specific instructions from a meeting he had attended with Batista, the head of the Army, the head of Military Intelligence, and others. **He said: 'It is humiliating and dishonorable for the Army to have lost three times as many men in combat as the insurgents did. Ten prisoners must be killed for each dead soldier.'** This was the order!



... The walls were splattered with blood. The bullets imbedded in the walls were encrusted with singed bits of skin, brains and human hair, the grisly reminders of rifle shots fired full in the face. The grass around the barracks was dark and sticky with human blood.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

Cuba's young people had breathed their last in the hallways and offices of the Moncada. The bloody corpses of the garrison's attackers were left like that for many long hours. Many had their skulls crushed, as if they had been hit by exploding bullets. **IT WAS THE START OF THE BLOODIEST REPRESSION EVER KNOWN IN THE COUNTRY.**

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959





This is another view of the bodies of the garrison's assailants, scattered over the lawn and its surroundings.



Soon afterward, Batista went to Santiago de Cuba along with many prominent individuals from his government. At the Moncada, Colonel Del Rio Chaviano introduces Batista to two soldiers from the regiment praised for their participation in the combat of July 26.

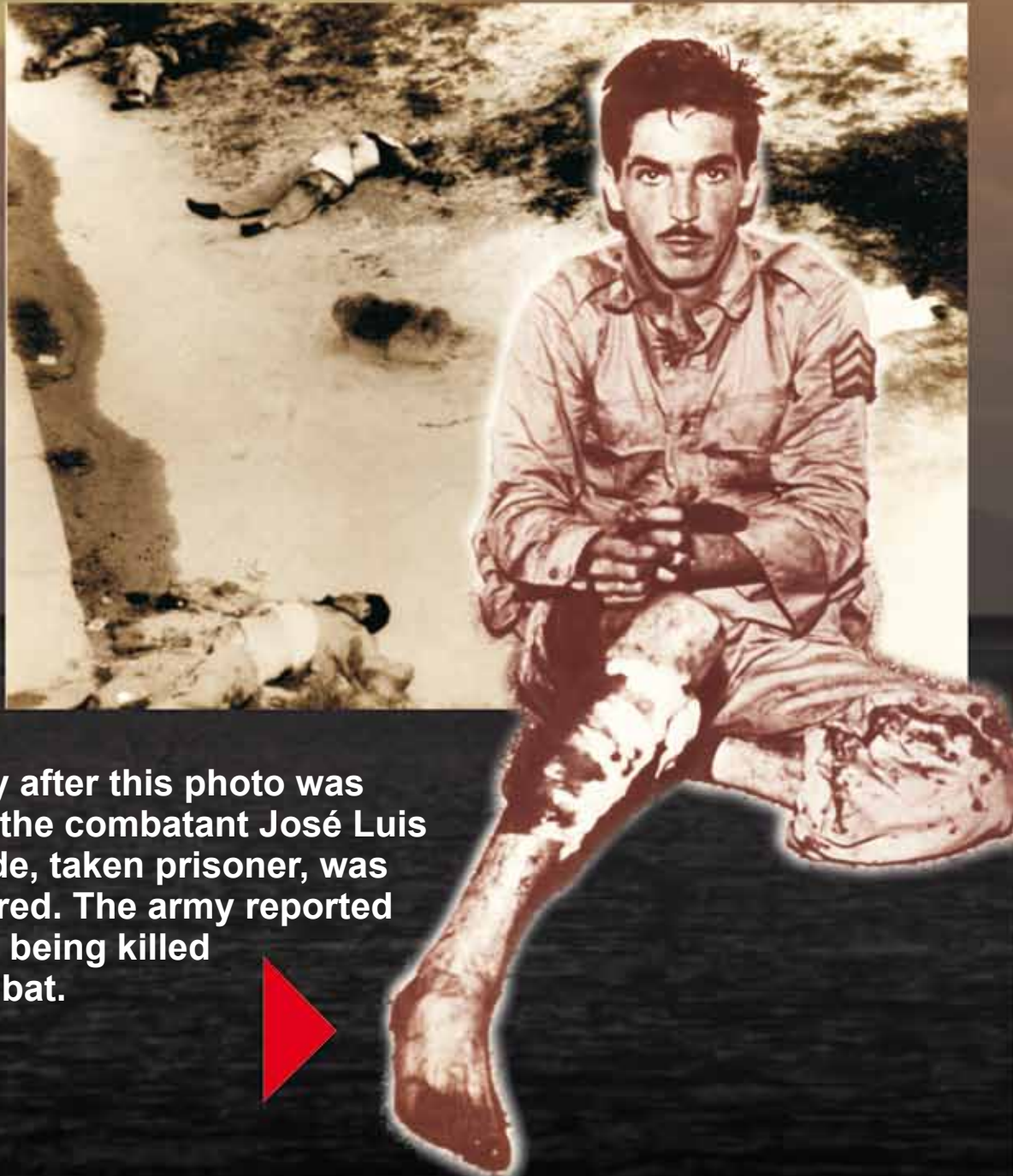


...On July 27th, in his speech at the military headquarters, Batista said that the assailants suffered 32 dead. By the end of the week the number of dead had risen to more than 80 men. In what battles, where, in what clashes, did these young men die? Before Batista spoke, more than 25 prisoners had been murdered. After Batista spoke FIFTY MORE WERE MASSACRED.



In the early morning hours, groups of our men were removed from the barracks and taken in automobiles to Siboney, La Maya, Songo, and elsewhere. Then they were led out - tied, gagged, already disfigured by the torture - and were murdered in isolated spots. They are recorded as having died in combat against the Army.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



Shortly after this photo was taken, the combatant José Luis Tasende, taken prisoner, was murdered. The army reported him as being killed in combat.



With a bleeding eye in their hands, a sergeant and several other men went to the cell where our comrades Melba Hernández and Haydée Santamaría were held. Addressing the latter, and showing her the eye, they said: 'This eye belonged to your brother.... Later they came back and burned their arms with lit cigarettes until at last, filled with spite, they told the young Haydée Santamaría: 'You no longer have a fiancé because we have killed him too.'

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



Another view of the bodies of combatants who attacked the garrison, scattered around the building's lawn and surroundings. The blood of these Cubans was shed by other Cubans who erroneously defended the usurper's regime. But that blood would later give rise to other combatants, ready to die for freedom.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959





...In the Centro Gallego they broke into the operating room at the very moment when two of our critically wounded men were receiving blood transfusions. They pulled them off the tables and, as the wounded could no longer stand, they were dragged down to the first floor where they arrived as corpses.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

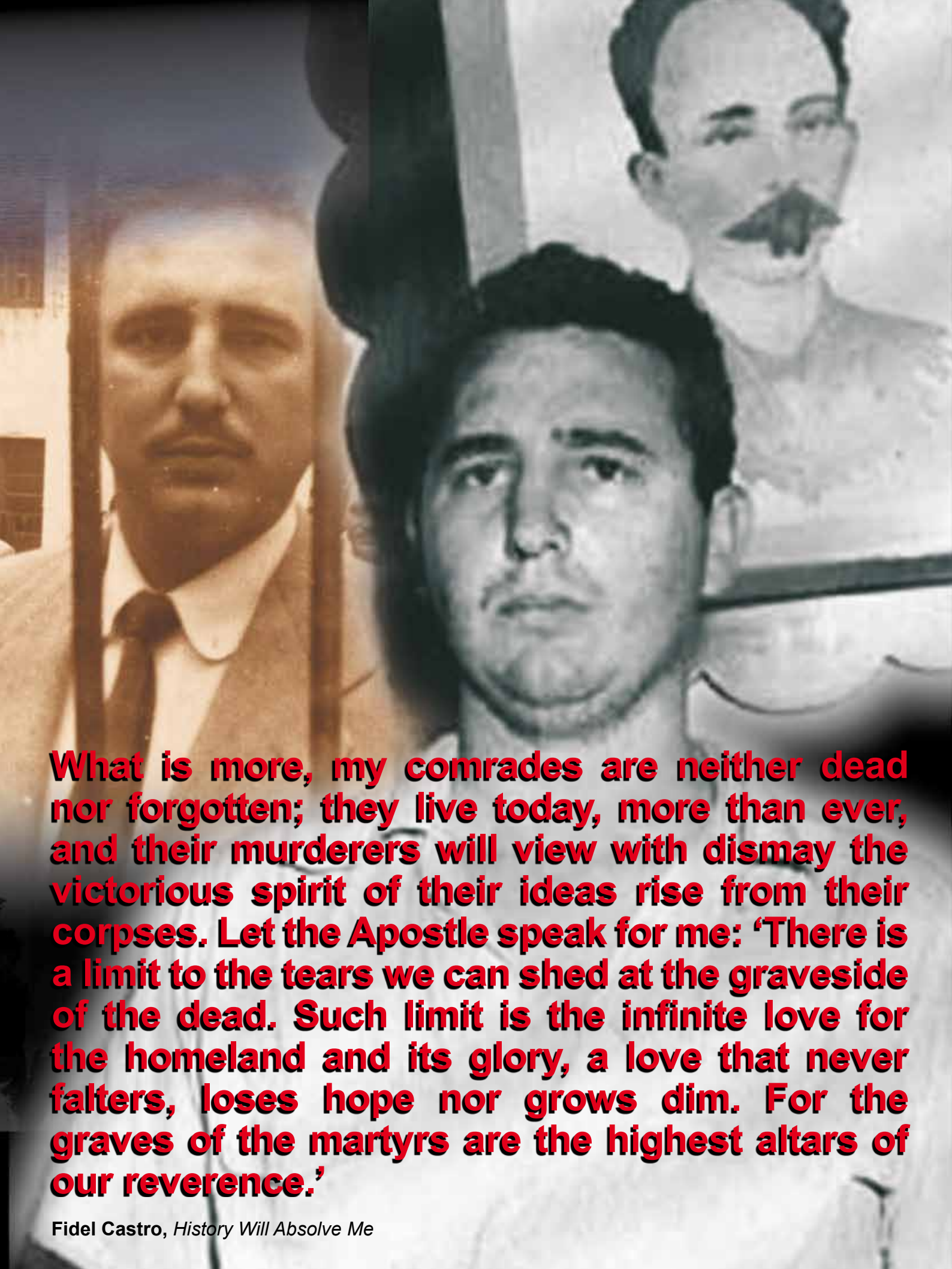
Seventy-seven combatants participated directly in the main action, the occupation of the garrison, and fifty-three of them did so from the very start of the battle, according to Fidel Castro himself. In July 1953, the forces of the Moncada garrison, headquarters of the Rural Guard's First Regiment, totaled 809 men.

In the actions of July 26, 1953, a total of five combatants were killed, all of them during the attempt to take over the Moncada. After the combat, forty-six of the revolutionaries taken prisoner were murdered. In the Bayamo action, there were no fatalities among the revolutionaries, but the ten combatants captured subsequently were murdered. Thus, the total number of revolutionaries killed was 61.



Fidel Castro was the first to engage in armed struggle against the dictatorship's forces. Days after the attack on the Moncada — carried out with a tragic outcome of dead and wounded — the young revolutionary was arrested and taken to the Santiago de Cuba bivouac. Here, Fidel is seen standing in between Colonel Del Río Chaviano and Commandant Morales.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959



What is more, my comrades are neither dead nor forgotten; they live today, more than ever, and their murderers will view with dismay the victorious spirit of their ideas rise from their corpses. Let the Apostle speak for me: 'There is a limit to the tears we can shed at the graveside of the dead. Such limit is the infinite love for the homeland and its glory, a love that never falters, loses hope nor grows dim. For the graves of the martyrs are the highest altars of our reverence.'

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

Isle of Pines Dec 12/53
MANIFESTO TO THE NATION

With the blood of my dead brothers, I write this document.

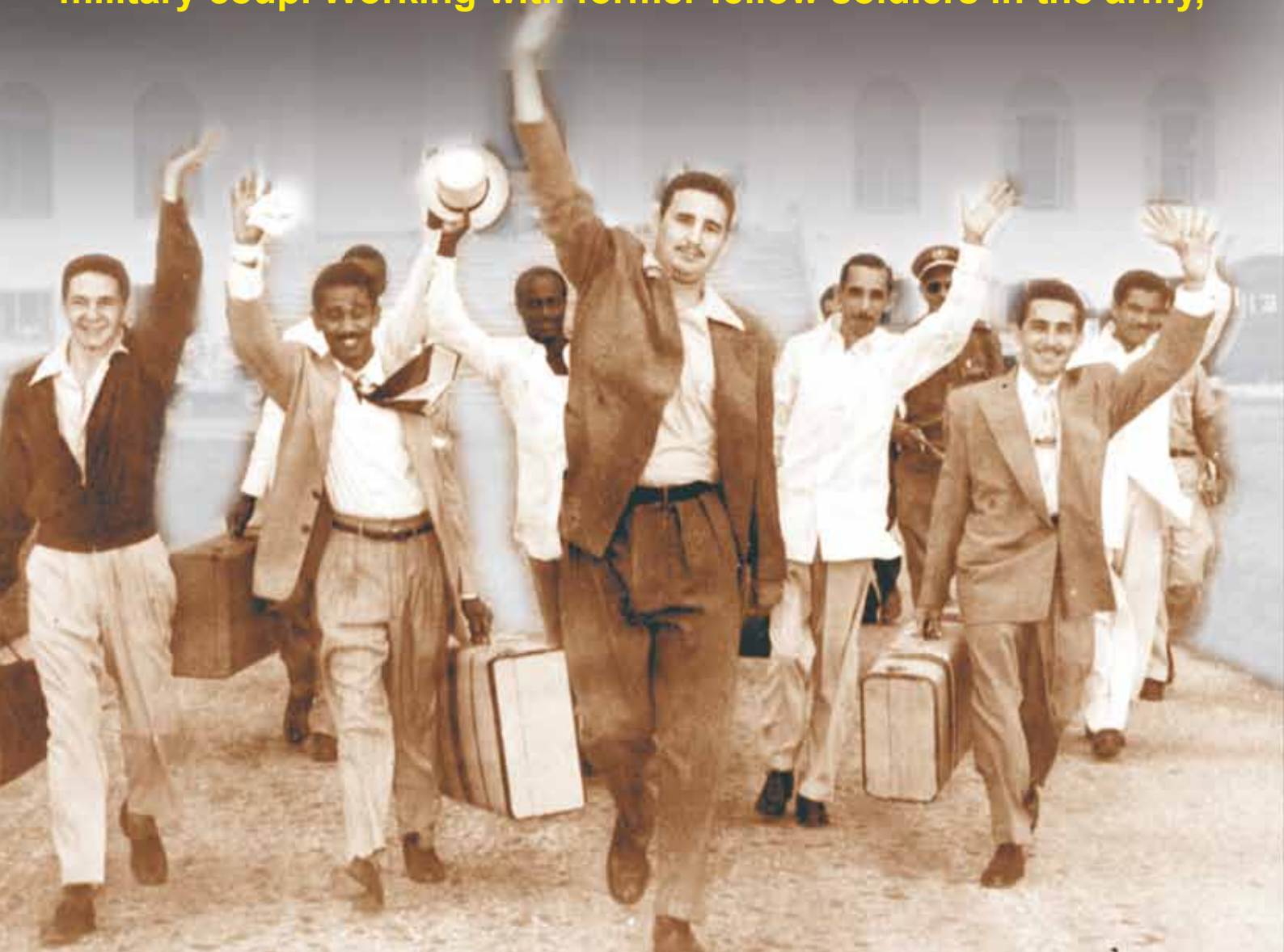
They are the only inspiration for it. Even more than freedom or life for ourselves, we ask for justice for them. At this time, justice does not mean a monument to the heroes and martyrs who fell in combat or were murdered after the battle; nor is it even a grave for resting in peace of the remains scattered over the Oriente countryside, in places often only known by their murderers; nor is it possible to speak of peace in an oppressed land. Posterity, which is always most generous to the good, will erect those symbols to their memory and the generations of tomorrow will pay a well-deserved tribute, when given the opportunity, to those who saved our country's honor during this era of infinite shame....

Excerpts from an essay censored by the dictator

For the last six years, Cuba has been one of the sores of America. Not just a wound: a sore — with all of the unyielding, burning, and sordid effects that those ills have on living flesh, even if that be the flesh of a people. Much of the beautiful Antillean island's blood has been shed....

...At the same time, there were elections coming up, set for June 1, 1952...

.... But here you have it that, eighty days before those elections, the retired major-general and senator for the Liberal Party, Fulgencio Batista, former president of the Republic and once again a presidential candidate without major chances of victory in the planned elections, surprised the country with a sudden military coup. Working with former fellow soldiers in the army,



orship, written by Doctor Jorge Mañach in 1958.

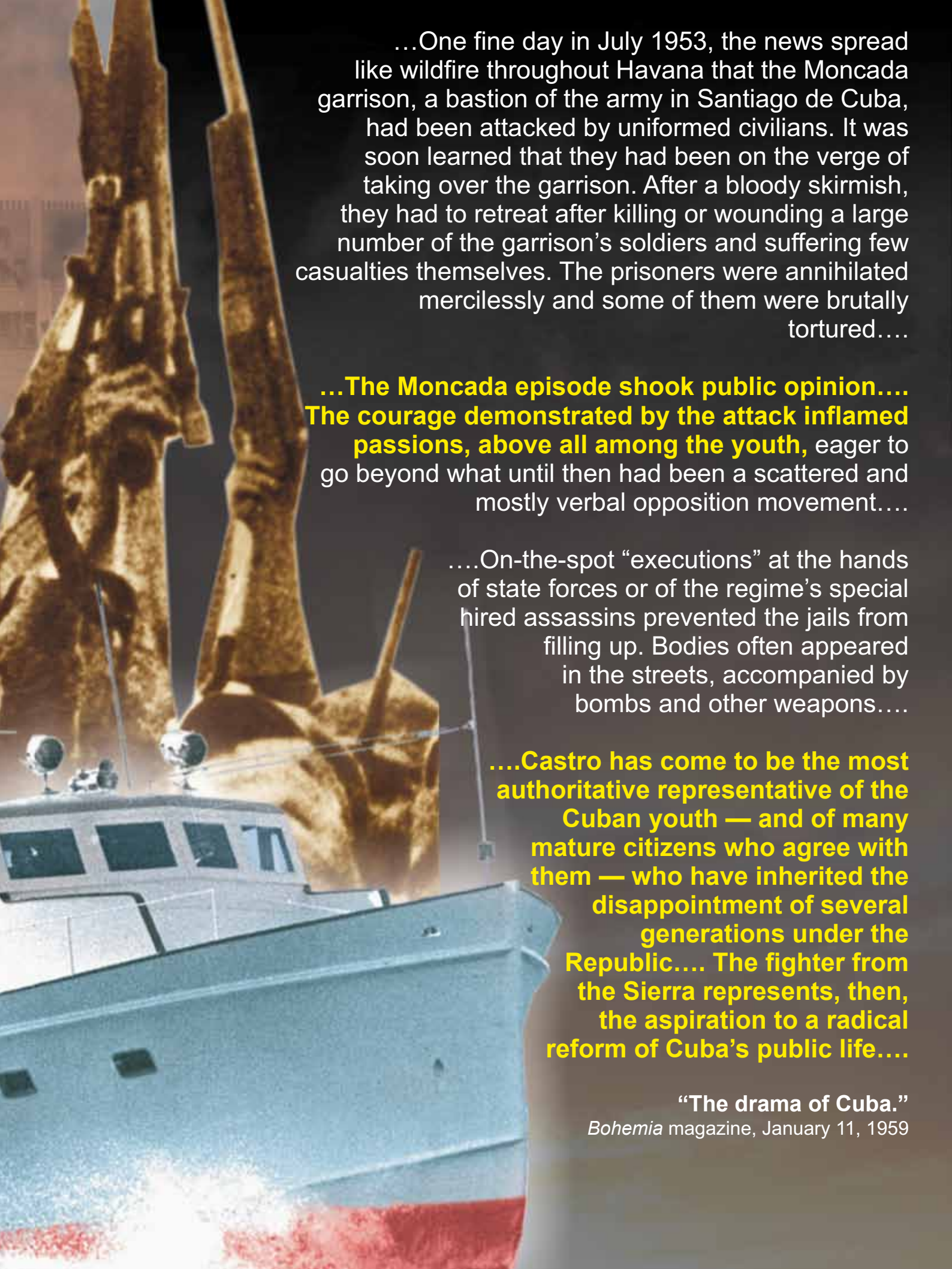
he entered the Columbia military encampment in Havana on March 10 at dawn, and assisted by a short-lived military junta, deposed President Prío and took power....

[Batista abolished the Constitution of the Republic], the fruit of a long, painful historical process, replacing it with a Constitutional Statute to his liking; he dissolved the Congress, replacing it with a "Consultative Council" made of his friends; he removed governors and mayors, appointing more of his henchmen to fill offices that legally belonged to popular mandate.

...A sensation like momentary paralysis took over the nation. The usurper government interpreted it as approval. It saw itself strengthened in that optimism by the prompt recognition of the United States....







...One fine day in July 1953, the news spread like wildfire throughout Havana that the Moncada garrison, a bastion of the army in Santiago de Cuba, had been attacked by uniformed civilians. It was soon learned that they had been on the verge of taking over the garrison. After a bloody skirmish, they had to retreat after killing or wounding a large number of the garrison's soldiers and suffering few casualties themselves. The prisoners were annihilated mercilessly and some of them were brutally tortured....

...The Moncada episode shook public opinion.... The courage demonstrated by the attack inflamed passions, above all among the youth, eager to go beyond what until then had been a scattered and mostly verbal opposition movement....

....On-the-spot "executions" at the hands of state forces or of the regime's special hired assassins prevented the jails from filling up. Bodies often appeared in the streets, accompanied by bombs and other weapons....

....Castro has come to be the most authoritative representative of the Cuban youth — and of many mature citizens who agree with them — who have inherited the disappointment of several generations under the Republic.... The fighter from the Sierra represents, then, the aspiration to a radical reform of Cuba's public life....

"The drama of Cuba."

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

September

September 16: A crime victim in Güines is autopsied, and the body is found to contain sawdust instead of organs.



February 24: Orthodox Party leaders accuse police of having beaten women and young people who were peacefully celebrating the date at the local Orthodox Youth office.

February 25: In the building located at 1756 Zapata, Vicente Lerrouz Kairuz, Silvano Valdés Hernández and Abelardo Cepero Grenet were shot to death.



March

March 1st: Héctor Vázquez Fernández, 19 years old, a resident of the Almendares neighborhood, reported being beaten by three policemen at the Columbia Bar.

Froilán Guerra Blanco disappeared from his home almost at the same time as William Soler. And his body appeared, shot to death, near Soler in the shrubbery outside the cement factory in the Oriente provincial capital.

Rafael Orejón Forment also was just a boy. But he died like a man. He was traveling from Nicaro to Santiago de Cuba to visit his parents. They ended up embracing his corpse.

January 15: In a shoot-out on university grounds, five individuals were hit by gunfire. In other disturbances, another sixteen were injured.

January 18: At a spontaneous rally in Güines, journalists Jesús Retureta, Arturo Pérez Domínguez and Emilio Morín Nuevo were detained.

February

February 14: Student Rubén Batista, injured by gunfire on November 27 on San Lázaro Street, dies at the University Hospital.



Enélida González Hernández, a University of Havana student, was kidnapped. They tried to make her talk about revolutionary actions; she refused and was tortured.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

WE FORGET NOTHING

When we speak of struggle and **we mention the people...**
the five hundred thousand farm laborers who live in miserable
shacks, who work four months of the year and starve the rest,
sharing their misery with their children, who don't have an inch
of land to till and whose existence would move any heart not
made of stone...

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

No electricity to speak of.... At nightfall, residents of 88% of those bohíos
must light an improvised quinqué lamp...when kerosene is available.
And as for a refrigerator or freezer, what can we say? Only 3% of rural
homes in Cuba have one of these artifacts. Food preservation is thus
almost unknown.

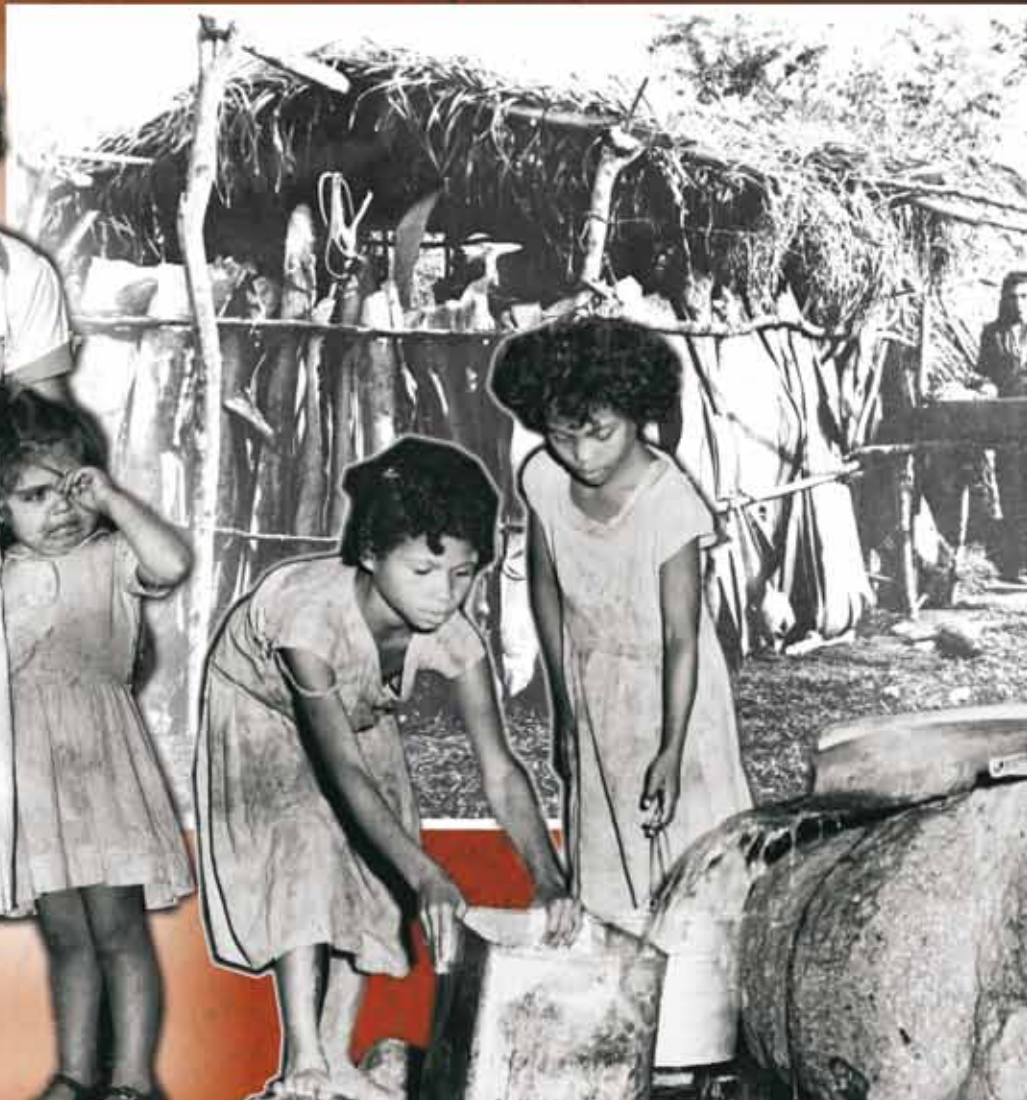
Carteles magazine, March 18, 1956



A SURVEY CARRIED OUT IN 1957 BY A CATHOLIC GROUP ON THE LIVING STANDARDS OF CUBA'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FOUND A GRIM REALITY:

- *Cuban agricultural workers on average have no more than 25 centavos daily for food, clothing and shoes.*
- *Sixty percent of them live in palm thatch-roof bohíos with dirt floors and without toilets, sewage or running water.*
- *Eighty-five percent of these hovels — incredible throwbacks from pre-Columbian indigenous housing — have only one or two sleeping areas, in which the entire rural family — men, women and children — must crowd into to sleep.*
- *Eighty-five percent, almost all homes, lacks running water.*
- *Forty-four percent was never able to attend school at any level.*
- *Ninety percent use kerosene for lighting.*

Carteles magazine, March 18, 1956



...There are two hundred thousand peasant families who do not have a single acre of land to till to provide food for their starving children. On the other hand, nearly three hundred thousand caballerías of cultivable land owned by powerful interests remain uncultivated....

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

Living conditions for Cuba's agricultural workers are among the worst in the world, and in every aspect: housing, clothing, food and health. This naked, parasite-filled young girl is illustrative of their situation: ragged clothing, scarce food, and a deplorable hut without sanitary service, running water, or electricity.

Carteles magazine, January 30, 1955

WHAT WE CAN



Las condiciones de vida de los obreros agrícolas en Cuba se cuentan entre las más bajas del mundo y desde cualquier ángulo que se le mire: habitación, vestido, alimentación o salud. A la vista, la niña desnuda y parasitada, rotunda de todo un escenario que incluye el vestir harapiento, la comida escasa y la choza lamentable sin servicios sanitarios, agua corriente o luz eléctrica.



CANNOT FORGET



It was a small, extremely impoverished bohío with walls made of royal palm trunks and crumbling pieces of wood, cardboard and tin, divided into two rooms. In one, the “bedroom”, made up of a broken-down iron bed with nothing but rags and old sacks for a mattress. In one corner of the hut, a rustic baby’s bed hung, half cradle, half hammock.

“Today we have green beans and rice with plantain,” the woman who lived in the hovel told us. “It’s like a party.” And later, perhaps to show us, the outsiders, that she still had a strong inner rebelliousness in the face of those horrible conditions, she added:

“Look how we live here... not even the animals... it would be better to live in a tree.”



The chief menu in all of those poor homes was reduced to boiled yucca and sweet potato without any seasoning. In other words, the root, just as it had been pulled from the earth, with the small amount of fire and water needed for it to be consumed by the body.

The poor farmer, surely believing that we were going to ask for something to eat, told us then in a fearful and indignant voice, as his wrinkled hands protected the paper that covered the pot in which his tubers were cooking:

“I don’t know! I don’t know what there is! There’s no food to give anybody here... Can’t you see? Very little.”

An account published in *Carteles* magazine, January 30, 1955

The diet of these families consists mainly of rice and beans (and tubers). Only 11% of them drink milk. Only 4% eat meat. Only 2% eat eggs. Their diet is short of more than 1,000 calories every day, with an absence of basic vitamins and minerals.

IN ADDITION TO MALNUTRITION, IGNORANCE, AND UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS, DISEASE AND PARASITISM PREVAIL.

The aforementioned survey proved that 14% of agricultural workers in this country have or have had tuberculosis; 13% have had typhoid, and 36% admit to having parasites, which means the real percentage is much higher.

POOR LIVING STANDARDS ARE ALSO EXPLAINED BY ANOTHER MAJOR PROBLEM IN CUBA:

UNEMPLOYMENT

Carteles magazine, April 13, 1959



...Ninety per cent of the children in the countryside are consumed by parasites which filter through their bare feet from the ground they walk on.... And when the head of a family works only four months a year, with what can he purchase clothing and medicine for his children? They will grow up with rickets, with not a single good tooth in their mouths by the time they reach thirty; they will have heard ten million speeches and will finally die of misery and deception.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



Fifty-five percent of all of this rural housing lacks a toilet or even a latrine, which explains, in part, the frightful tide of parasitism eating away at the guts of our farmers.

Carteles magazine, March 18, 1956



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar

...Gradually became one of Cuba's wealthiest men, especially during his last administration, and taking incredible advantage of the finance and concession policies of state banking institutions, overseen by Martínez Sáenz and in conspiracy with Andrés Domingo Morales del Castillo. They did this by appropriating that financing, and collecting — via third parties — a high tax-in-kind from business people who benefited from this very original form of embezzlement that he established.

Owner of contracting companies, such as the Compañía Ingeniería del Golfo S.A. Principal owner of Servicios Metropolitanos de Gas S.A.

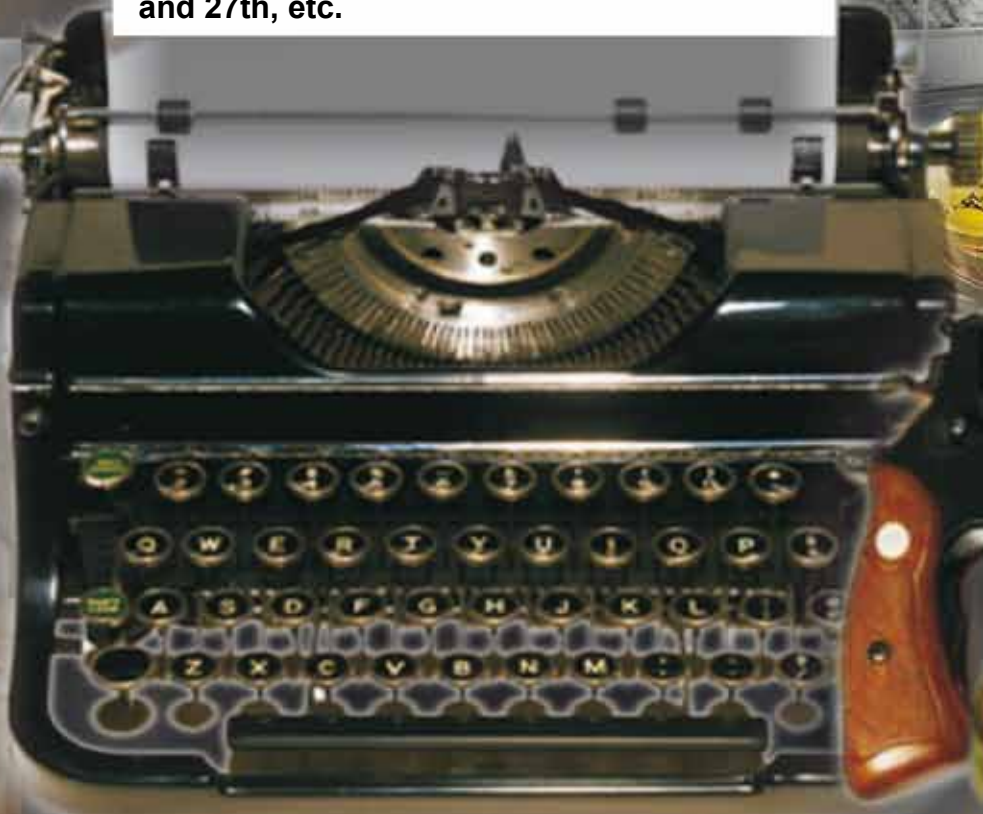
Third-largest owner, with \$40,000 in stocks, of Industrias Siporex S.A.

The first two benefited broadly from BANDES and the third by BANFAIC.

A partner in the Compañía Eléctrica de La Habana del Este S.A.

He owned from 10 to 15% of the capital of the Compañía Azucarera Atlántica del Golfo S.A., the largest U.S. sugar consortium in Cuba.

In association with José López Vilaboy, Batista's wife controlled almost half of 80% of stock in Banco Hispano Cubano, the 21st-largest bank, with deposits worth \$8 million. The Compañía Inmobiliaria Marimuca S.A., the Compañía de Inversiones Dofinca S.A., the Compañía Inmobiliaria Adorsinda, the Compañía de Inversiones y Desarrollo de Baracoa, the Compañía de Fomento del Túnel de L H S.A., the Sociedad Marimelena Realty Company, the Compañía de Fomento Almendares S.A., the Compañía Urbanizadora Valvelano S.A., the Urbanizadora Crysa S.A., land in the northern part of Vedado, the Inversiones Dalmen, the Inmobiliaria Miramar, the Territorial San Vicente S.A., and various plots of land and building located on Primera and 36 in Miramar; Galiano and Malecón, Malecón and San Lázaro, G and 27th, etc.





Batista's chief associate, Andrés Domingo Morales del Castillo, the tyrant's right-hand man in his endless chain of illegal acquisitions and financial fraud at the expense of the national treasury.



Chief proprietor of the **Compañía de Fomento del Túnel de L H S.A.**, the contractor hired to build the tunnel under the Bay of Havana and administrator of the tunnel's general zone of influence, with capital totaling \$10 million.



On September 19, 1955, his government, through BANDES, awarded the contract for building the tunnel under the Bay of Havana to a French company, Société des Grands Travaux de Marseille, **BECAUSE IT AGREED TO GIVE HIM SOME \$5 MILLION OVER THE THREE YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK, A LARGER COMMISSION THAN WHAT WAS OFFERED BY A U.S. RIVAL.**



Another member of the March 13 honor roll was Carlos Gutiérrez Menoyo, who showed great courage in the operation, in which he was one of the leaders and also one of the victims.

October

October 3: Gagged and blindfolded, with his feet burned and other signs of torture, Armando José Hernández Hernández, PhD, a 47-year-old attorney, was found in Marianao. He lived on Tercera, between 86 and 87 streets, and he stated that he had been kidnapped on the 8th and taken to various houses and a yacht.

March

March 8: Mrs. Agustina Delgado Valdés, 64, of 713 Corrales Street, was shot and killed on the corner of Monte and Antón Recio during what the police said was the pursuit of a thief.

April

April 22: When the army tried to remove students from the Secondary Educational Institute of Pinar del Río, ten students were injured.

June

June 22: The SIM agent Luis María Román Branch Pérez, who was accused of killing Dr. Mario Fortuny, was granted amnesty.

September

September 2: In a place known as Rancho Mata, a rural neighborhood in Guantánamo, Silvio Lambert Pargas and Lutgardo Imbert were shot to death and farmer Saúl Lambert was seriously injured by soldier Arturo Álvarez, when army Sergeant Carlos Sánchez went to arrest Saúl Lambert without saying why.

November

November 23: In shrubbery on Ayestarán Street, the body of a man was discovered whose exact race and age could not be determined due to the advance stage of deterioration in which he was found.



Jos é Antonio Echeverría, president of the Federation of University Students (FEU), after leading courageous episodes of the struggle against the dictatorship, was shot to death by the occupants of a car that pursued him near the CMQ radio station.

January

January 17: Aurelio Fernández Gutiérrez was reported missing; he had been detained in the offices of the SIM.

January 28: When a torchlight march to the cemetery was broken up, Juan Brooks and Gloria Cuadras were injured by gunfire.



Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

The dictatorship took bloody revenge for the attack on the Palace. The main victim was Doctor Pelayo Cuervo Navarro, Orthodox Party leader, found shot to death at the well-known Country Club Lake.

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION

AN ATTACK ON NATIONAL CULTURE

The dictatorship cancels its meager financial support for the Cuban Ballet.

Alicia's response

"In announcing the withdrawal of the sum the Cuban Ballet had been receiving from the state, you announce to me that you have recommended to the minister of education the inclusion of my name or that of the Alicia Alonso Ballet Academy among the institutions subsidized by the Institute, with the sum of 500 pesos being allocated for that purpose.

"Allow me, Doctor Zéndegui, to reject that solution.... We have not worked with the goal of receiving a monthly amount of money, but with a broader horizon: that of carrying out, in the field of ballet, cultural work of a historic nature.... What you are proposing seems more like charity or a bribe."

And Alicia ended her letter: ***"We have faith in the people of Cuba and we are sure that, in defending their legitimate right to culture, they will provide us with their support in order to prevent this artistic expression from ever being snatched away."***

Havana, August 15, 1956

THIS WAS NOT, IN EFFECT, THE FIRST TIME GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAD BANNED OR ATTACKED THE COUNTRY'S AUTHENTIC CULTURAL TREASURES...

[illegible]

Las Zapatillas "Rojas" de la Eximia Alicia Alonso

B¹ NOTICIAS CON VITAMINAS
por el DR. LOBO

Si usted ha visto la selección hecha por la Universidad de Oriente, de los profesores que van a dictar conferencias en el curso de Verano en dicho centro de estudios superiores, notará que no está ninguno de los que últimamente han sido señalados como comunistas o "compañeros de viaje" de los rojos.

Y ¿para que no haya engaño, basta decir que este es una táctica de los comunistas, para dejar pasar el tiempo, y seguir trabajando más descansadamente en el futuro.

Ahora se sabía que Pedro Alomá Kessel, que solamente hace unos meses tenía una mano delante y otra detrás, tiene reunida la bicoca de 4,000 pesos, para ir a operarse una úlcera en la Clínica de los Hermanos Mayo, en Nueva York.

Y pensar que aquí gozamos de tener las mejores cuchillas del Continente; pero está visto que la vanidad puede más que la razón y la inteligencia en algunos seres.

EL BALLET de Cuba, que dirige Alicia Alonso, está compuesto en su casi totalidad de elementos comunistas, y se dice que de los 40 mil pesos que acaba de recibir dicha institución, una gran parte del mismo fue a parar a la caja del Partido Socialista Popular, a través de Sergio Acosta, tesorero de dicho ballet.

The weekly *Gente* published an article titled, “*The red slippers.*”

Tiempo (the newspaper of Rolando Masferrer, the head of the “Masferrer Tigers” who shed so much blood in Oriente):
“For what they do and their cultural benefits, 500 pesos is enough.”

Avance: “Frankly, it is hard to understand how the state could have maintained an arbitrary subsidy for so long that contributed nothing to Cuba.”

The Cuban Ballet, directed by Alicia Alonso, is composed almost entirely of communist elements...

The people were completely on Alicia's side. On Saturday September 15, she received a national tribute at the University Stadium. Alicia danced "The Dying Swan." It was symbolic.

Función Desagravio Alicia Alonso
 8:30 p. m.
SABADO 15
PUEBLO GRATIS
 ACTUARÁN
Alicia Alonso y el Ballet de Cuba
 Estrellas de la Radio, Televisión y Teatro, Ballet C. M. Q. y Ballet
 Canal 4 Shows de Sans Souci y Tropicana.
Stadium Universitario
 Misión de Defensa del Ballet de Cuba.

**FUNCION DE DESAGRAVIO
 A
 ALICIA ALONSO**

PROGRAMA:

I. BALLETO DE C. M. Q. T. V. "Rapsodia Argentina",
 C. de A. Alonso
 Con Elena del Canto.

II. BALLETO DE SANS SOUCI "Alaba Kamea",
 C. de A. Alonso
 Con St. Fabian y V. Moreno.

III. BALLETO DE TROPICANA "Rapsodia en Azul",
 C. de Roldán.
 Con Isabella Guevara y Henry Ponce.

INTERMEDIO

IV. BALLETO DE CANAL 4. Yánnis Mantiri.

V. BALLETO DE CUBA. "Las Sifides",
 M. de Chopin, C. de Fokine,
 Danza: F. Alonso
 Con: Carlos Ponce, Ada Ponce,
 María Llanusa y A. Moreno.

VI. "MUERTE DEL CISNE" Música de Saint-Saëns.
 C. de M. Fokine.

Alicia Alonso

ANIMADORES: (por orden alfabético) Missy Bajones, Gina
 Cabrera, Raquel Revuelta, Guillermo Alcaraz,
 Gaudes, Luis Carbonel, Manolo Crego, Tito
 Hernández, Rolando Ordoz.

★

Orquesta: Jorge L. dirección del Maestro Enrique González
 Mantiri.

★

STADIUM UNIVERSITARIO
 SABADO 15, SEPTIEMBRE.

Suprisingly, the FEU leader Fructuoso Rodríguez came out of hiding and appeared before the large crowd assembled to express his solidarity with the Ballet's cause and to harshly criticize the dictatorship. A few months later, he was murdered by henchmen working for Ventura. The rally culminated with a presentation by Alicia Alonso, who performed "The Dying Swan" by Fokine/Saint-Saëns and received one of the longest and most emotional ovations of her career. Alicia Alonso had danced for the people of Cuba in the University Stadium on other occasions.



20,000 PERSONAS ASISTIERON A LA CITA DE ARTE CON
el BALLET DE CUBA y nuestra ALICIA ALONSO
que presentó la Cerveza POLAR al pueblo cubano, en función
auspiciada por la Dirección de Cultura de la F.E.U.



Alicia gave another performance in the Sauto Theater in Matanzas, where she
addressed the people. SOON AFTERWARD, SHE WENT ABROAD.



THE CUBAN BALLET
WAS DISSOLVED



Bloody Christmas

December 25, 1956

AMONG THE CRIMINALS OF THE BATISTA REGIME, ONE WHO STANDS OUT GLARINGLY IS COLONEL FERMÍN COWLEY GALLEGOS. SENT TO HOLGUÍN, COWLEY HAD NO RESPECT FOR ANYONE OR ANYTHING.



December 25

Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

"I can't believe you, Luz; you know that we've known each other since we were kids. If I'm there, José is in no danger whatsoever." They went down the dark street. Luz waited a few minutes and then decided to go after them. "Nino's woman is following us," whispered Corporal Juan R. Armas Armas to Berencén, who was the acting commander. Berencén turned around. "We're going to take him to the barracks. The colonel wants to talk to him." A few hours later, at dawn, she sent her son with clean clothes and breakfast for her husband. The boy returned with the news that his father was not there. **José Mendoza García** was found hung to death a few kilometers from town. His body showed signs of torture.



Aquiles Espinosa and his wife, **Rafaela Núñez**, chatted on the porch without noticing the automobile parked a few meters away.

"Don't move, Aquiles!"

"Are you talking to me?"

"Yes, you. You're under arrest, and you're coming with us."

Aquiles was dressed only in pajama pants and shoes. He asked for a few minutes to get dressed. They told him no. Rafaela couldn't stand it anymore and began to yell, "Help! They're taking away Aquiles!" By the time neighbors came out of their homes, the vehicle was disappearing around the corner.

Twelve hours later, Aquiles was found dead, hanging from a tree on Gamboa Road, Victoria de las Tunas.



"Stop right there, José Marcial!"

"What is it? Who are you?" **José Marcial Pérez** asked with surprise.

"The army! You're under arrest!"

"What have I done?"

"Don't you say Batista is a dictator? That's why we're going to give you this!"

Lieutenant Agustín Martínez, post commander of the Rural Guard in San Germán, approached his bleeding body, and fired a finishing shot at his head, exclaiming, "This one won't be a pain in the ass anymore!"



Loynaz Hechevarría was a leader of the sugar cane workers.

A week earlier, when the struggle for fair wages had reached the boiling point, Loynaz was fired

from the sugar mill. Now, as he walked with the sergeant through the streets of Marcané village, on the way to the regiment, Loynaz complained, "You all can't leave a person alone even on Christmas."

"Don't worry, this is probably the last time," the sergeant told him.

The next morning, Loynaz Hechevarría was found dead.



A monument to the victims of Bloody Christmas.

BETWEEN DECEMBER 24 AND 26 OF 1956, A TOTAL OF 23 OPPONENTS OF THE DICTATORSHIP WERE TORTURED AND MURDERED. THE PEOPLE NAMED THE MASSACRE "BLOODY CHRISTMAS."

Three days earlier, on December 21, Colonel Fermín Cowley had been summoned to the General Staff headquarters for a meeting led by dictator Fulgencio Batista.

**TELEPHONE DISPATCH
URGENT**

**OFC CGS Cdad Mtar, Dec 21 1956
JRGTO 7 GR
Holguín**

Please report to the GSH, Cdad Mtar, tomorrow, the 22nd at 14:00 hours to participate in a meeting to analyze future operations with the Hon President of the Republic.

Rodríguez Ávila
Brig Gen AGE CGS psr

The *Corynthia* Massacre

On May 23, 1957, after landing on the coast of Mayarí, in the north of Oriente province, the expedition party of young men from the Authentic Party led by Calixto Sánchez was immediately pursued by troops from the Holguín Regiment, under the command of the notorious murderer Fermín Cowley Gallegos.



After being cornered, hungry and with their feet torn to shreds, the 16 expeditionaries decided to surrender. A few hours later, following Batista's orders, Col. Fermín Cowley ordered them to be murdered.

“Because one of the habits that the dictator instilled in his violent soldiers, one of the most repugnant depravities that prevailed in the armed forces as of September 4th, was cowardliness, and the vice of murdering prisoners.”

*Fidel Castro, May 28, 1959, during the burial of the remains of the *Corynthia* expeditionaries.*

“And why is this black guy here?” he asked after seeing the solitary prisoner.

“For stealing, Colonel.”

“I didn’t commit that theft, Colonel, I swear. I’ve done it other times, but this...”

A blow with a closed fist behind his ear knocked him to the ground.

“Talk, you goddamn faggot, talk!” They kicked him with their boots. The man’s face began to bleed. “Don’t hit me anymore! Oh, god, oh, dear virgin, help me!”

“Throw water on him to revive him!” The prisoner was sat down on the chair again, but he couldn’t sit up. “Hold him up, damn it!” the Col. Cowley ordered.

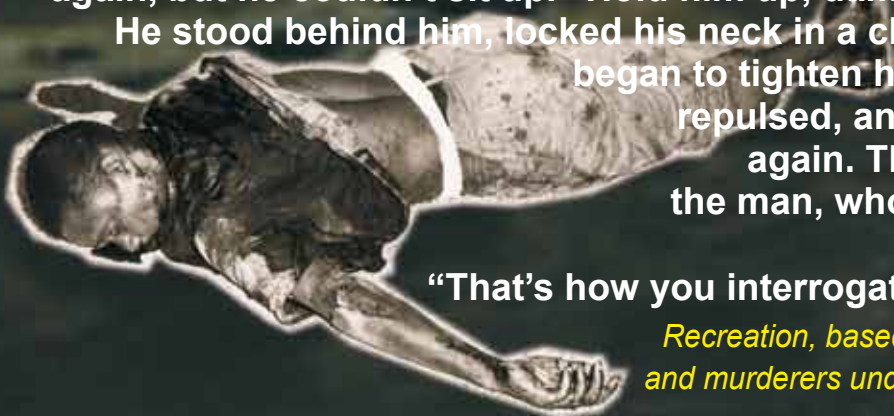
He stood behind him, locked his neck in a chokehold, twisted his arm, and began to tighten his hold. All of a sudden, he felt

repulsed, and pushed the body to the floor again. They threw a bucket of water on the man, who was sprawled on the ground.

“Colonel, he’s dead!”

“That’s how you interrogate prisoners,” he said, and left.

Recreation, based on testimony from the trials of torturers and murderers under the orders of Colonel Fermín Cowley.



On March 10, 1952, Fermín Cowley was a first lieutenant who held a low position in the Holguín regiment. **How and who promoted to colonel and named commander of the regiment?**

CABO PARRADO GARRISON HAVANA, MARCH 16, 1952

Commander Regiment 1
Santiago de Cuba

I form you that, by order of the Hon. Mr. President of the Republic, First Lieutenant Fermín de la C. Cowley y Gallegos has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Army (stop) You are informed that, via the same paragraph of the presidential degree, he has been appointed Territorial Inspector of the Antonio Maceo Regiment No. 1, as of March 10, 1952.

Tabernilla Dolz Major General Chief Army General Staff

TRAMITADO

URGENT

OFFICIAL TELEPHONE DISPATCH
RGS, CDAD MTAR, MAY 2 1956

To Lt Col Fermín C. de la C. Cowley y Gallegos, MMN and P CASF A, Miramar. Please report to the res Hon Mr. Pres Repub, Cdad Mtar, today Wednesday at 15:00 hrs, wearing M—1 service uniform and bring with you a star to be promoted to your new rank SPO No. 5.

Robaina Pérez Brig Gen, AGE

Official radiogram
Urgent
GSH, Cdad Mtar, May 2 1956

Jrgto 8 GR Holguín

You are informed that by Pres Dec that Cor Fermín C. de la C. Cowley y Gallegos, MMNP, has been appointed Chief of that Rgt, and he will go there by plane at 0600 hors today, the 4th, to take command.

Robaina Piedra Brig Gen, AGE

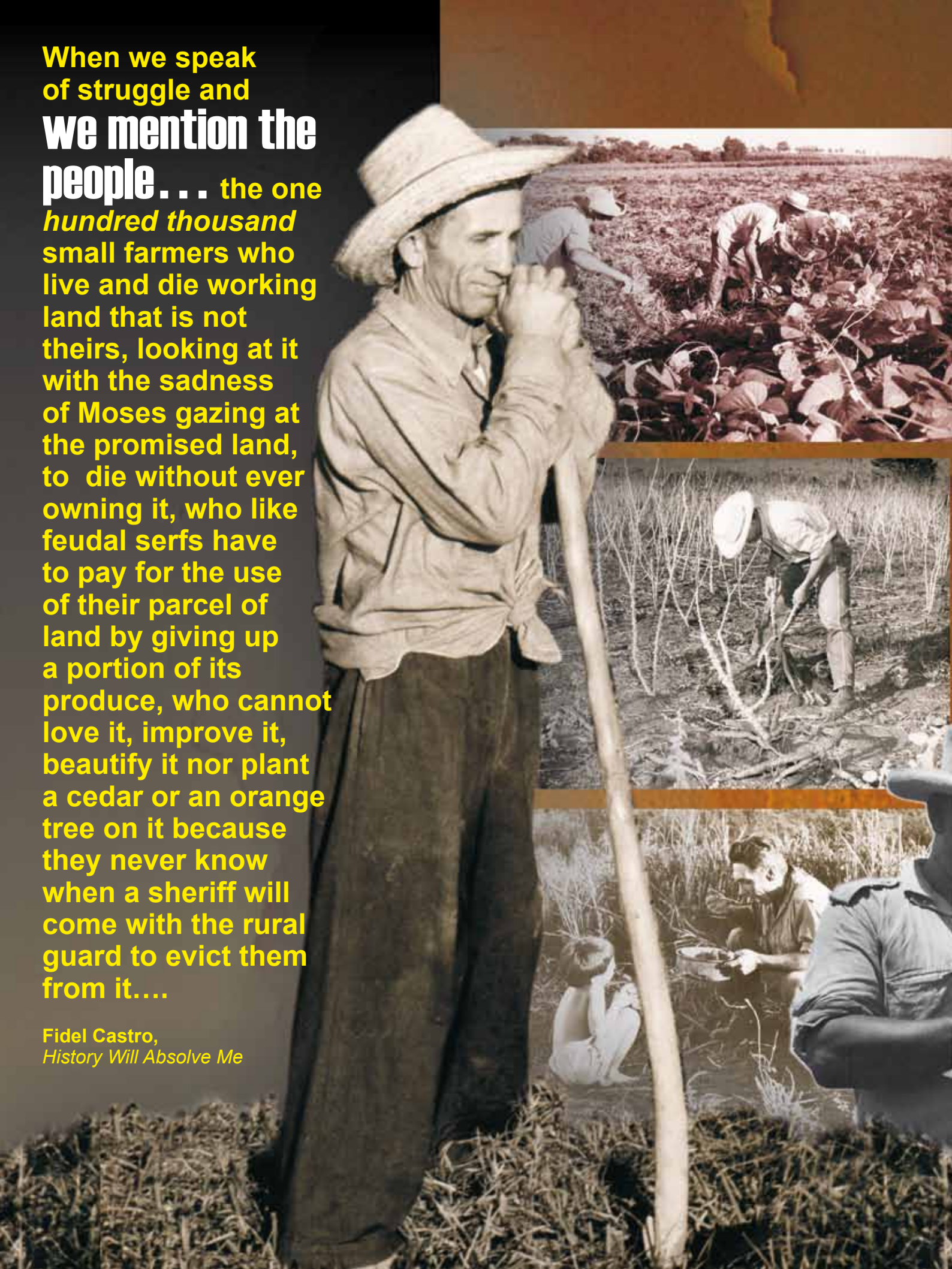
From left to right:

Martín Díaz Tamago; Del Río Chaviano; Fermín Cowley Gallego



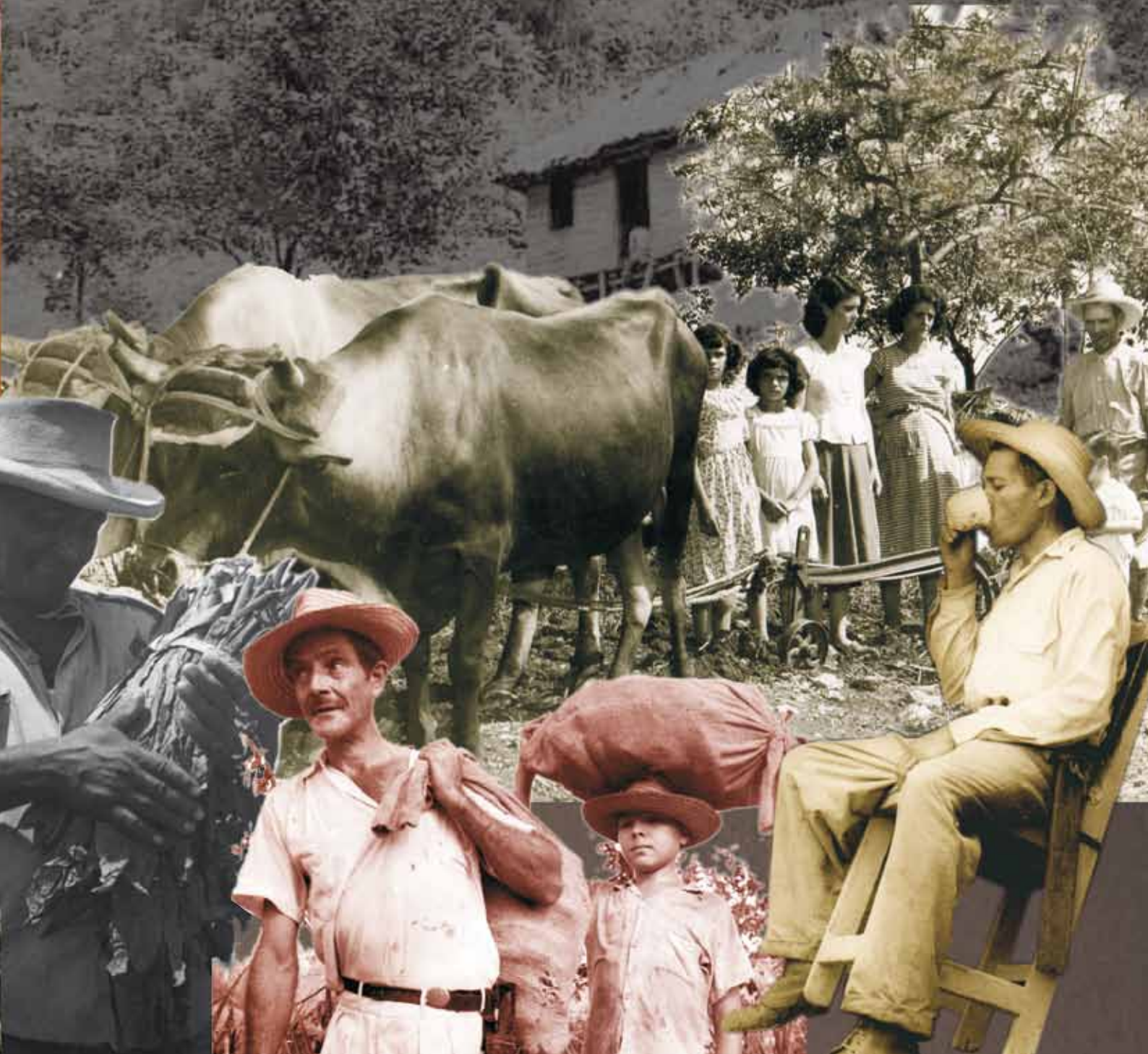
When we speak
of struggle and
**we mention the
people...** the one
hundred thousand
small farmers who
live and die working
land that is not
theirs, looking at it
with the sadness
of Moses gazing at
the promised land,
to die without ever
owning it, who like
feudal serfs have
to pay for the use
of their parcel of
land by giving up
a portion of its
produce, who cannot
love it, improve it,
beautify it nor plant
a cedar or an orange
tree on it because
they never know
when a sheriff will
come with the rural
guard to evict them
from it....

Fidel Castro,
History Will Absolve Me



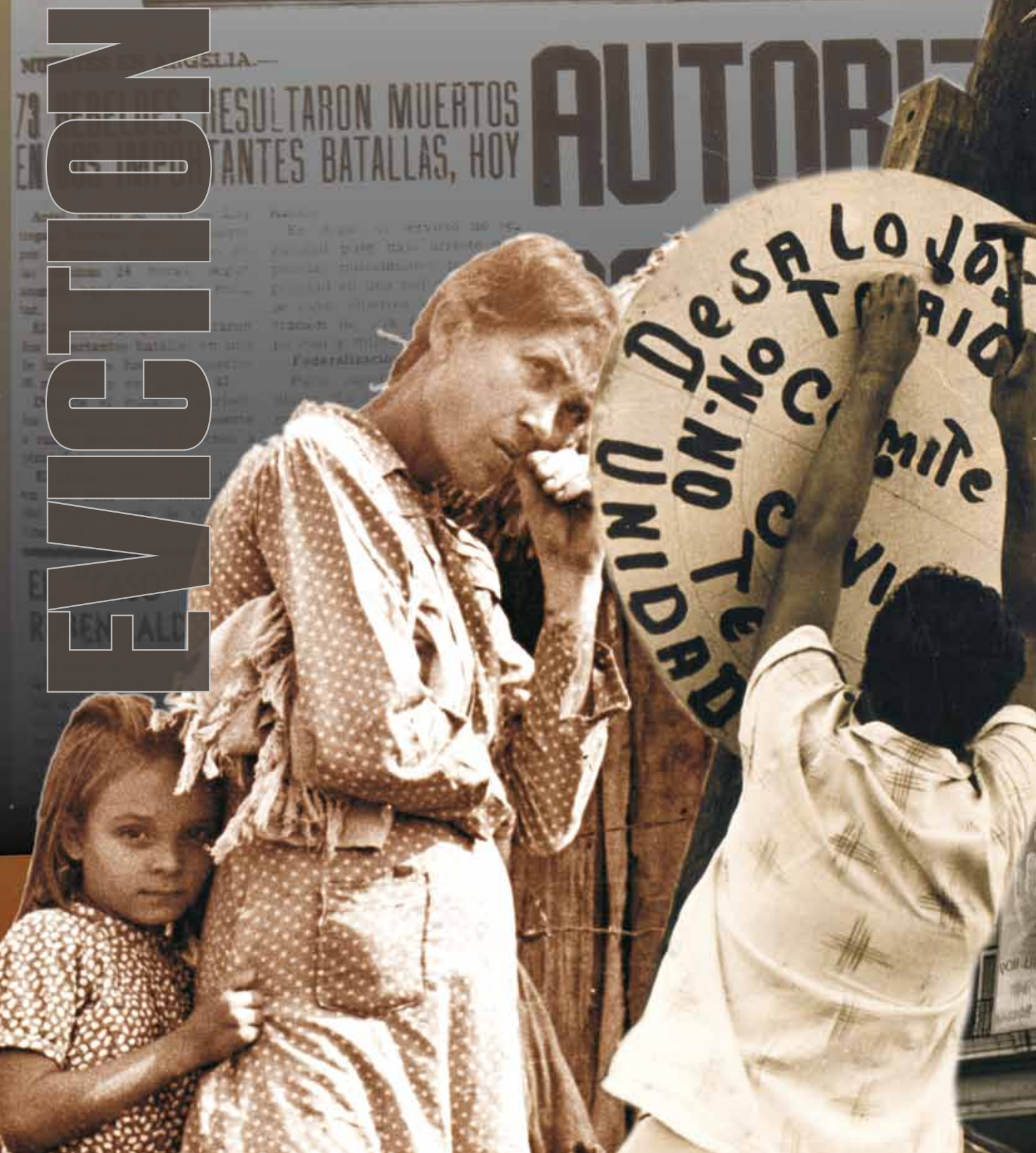
EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF CUBAN SMALL FARMERS ARE PAYING RENT AND LIVE UNDER THE PERENNIAL THREAT OF EVICTION. MORE THAN HALF OF THE BEST ARABLE LAND IS OWNED BY FOREIGNERS...

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!



Quitan potreros y tierras a los

AVICION



AUTORIDADES

Desalojo No Comite
UNIDAD

campesinos de "Carlos Rojas"



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

Only death can liberate one from so much miser

The country's capital, with 22% of the population, had 65% of its doctors and 62% of its hospital beds. Conditions in the countryside generally were much more critical: no more than 8% of the population received free medical attention.

Some indicators reveal the precariousness of the population's health: the infant mortality rate was higher than 60 deaths per 1,000 live births and life expectancy at birth was just 58 years.



y; this is where the State does help them: to die.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

IT IS IRONIC THAT IN CUBA, WITH A CHIEFLY RURAL POPULATION, ONLY ONE RURAL HOSPITAL EXISTED, WITH JUST 10 BEDS AND WITHOUT A SINGLE DOCTOR.



WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

July

July 19: A habeas corpus petition is filed on behalf of Captain Alejandro García Olayón, chief of the Santiago de Cuba Maritime Police; Corporal Valerio Velázquez Savigne, and Officer Epifanio Cotilla González, for the beating death of German engineer Hans Kensin, 55, who lived in the Punta Gorda neighborhood.

September

September 12: Marcelo López Faez, 24, a janitor at the Carreño Building, was shot to death by secret police detective Antonio María Quintana Medina.

November

November 30: In disturbances across the street from the University, Isabel Zayas, of 1202 San Lázaro; Nydia Gómez Rodríguez, of 60 48th in Miramar, and Benito Pérez Hernández, of San Miguel del Padrón, are shot and injured.

December

December 2: On the corner of Infanta and San Lázaro, students and police clash, leaving 15 people injured and 30 arrested.

Twenty students and two policemen are injured after a disturbance at the Havana Stadium.

December 5: A demonstration of women is broken up at Galeano and San Rafael and 20 of them are arrested.

December 7: When shots are fired on the corner of San Lázaro and San Francisco as students are returning from laying a wreath at the statue of Maceo and clashing with police, Camilo Cienfuegos of 462 Dolores; Serafín Moure of 654 Ánimas; Roberto Puerta of 718 San Miguel; Armando Hernández, 22; Oscar Perón; Alberto Álvarez Cueto; Alfredo Esquivel Rodón; Juan Pedro Carbó Serviá; and María Fernández Soto are all shot and injured. Ten other people are injured after being beaten with clubs.



Faustino Dilla is found hung by the neck from a tree on the corner of 21 and 134th in Marianao. He is identified by a receipt from Havana Prison, from which he had been released a few hours earlier.



At the San Martín Farm in the Diezmero neighborhood, Juan Bautista Tey Parra, a journalist originally from Santiago is found after having been hung to death. Eduardo Palmero Hernández is found next to him, also hung to death.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

WE FORGET NOTHING

What we present here

The photos below illustrate one of the ugliest episodes of our history and are terrible proof of the regime of corruption and tyranny that we have suffered over the last seven years.

Those of us who put together this magazine feel embarrassed and indignant that this has happened in Cuba, but we feel we have the duty to make it public, as a purifying indictment.

And what we are seeing here is just a brief glimpse at what actually used to happen in the Mazorra psychiatric hospital. The full story — a story of greed and mercilessness, of brutality and ignorance — will become known as the authorities collect and organize information on what was taking place there.

But what is being said and shown here is already a shocking accusation. The opportunists of the Batista regime did not stop at anything, nor did they have any compassion in their zeal for profit and in their cruelty, dividing up not only the asylum's lands, but even the funds allocated for the treatment and sustenance of the unfortunate patients.

the Mazorra psych

It remains as a sinister example of the past under the dictatorship, and we trust that such horrors have disappeared forever from our nation.

Bohemia magazine, February 1, 1959

The horrors and misadministration. In this other general many "dog pens", observe the extreme nudity



Psychiatric hospital is a NATIONAL SHAME.

It was in these broken-down beds that the psychiatric patients of the Mazorra slept. Observe the state of the bedsteads.



ries of a dishonest
view of one of the
ent of the patients'
y and malnutrition.



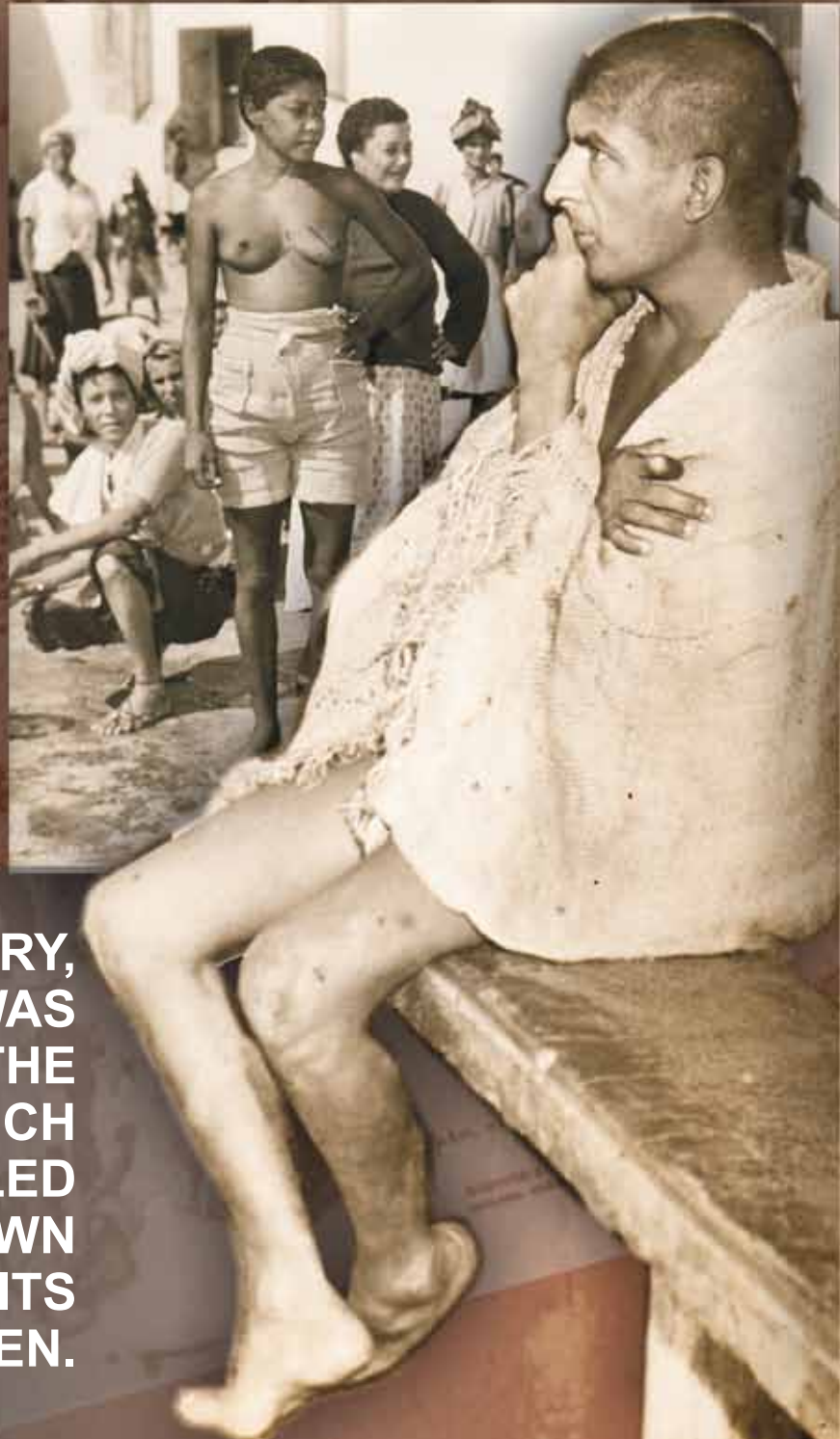
Crowded into fetid wards; sleeping on battered bedsteads without mattresses, sheets or blankets, or on the floor, close together for warmth during the icy nights at the Mazorra; without adequate treatment or food, because all of it meant nothing to the unscrupulous embezzlers who were supposed to provide medicine and food.

Bohemia, February 1, 1959

WE FORGET NOTHING



Naked, packed together and malnourished, with their eyes lost in their world of shadows and fantasies, with nothing to hope for but death to free them from the inferno that surrounded them, the hopeless people who made up its natural population have been subjected to shockingly outrageous abuse.



**NAKEDNESS, MISERY,
NEGLECT... THAT WAS
THE MAZORRA UNDER THE
BATISTA REGIME, WHICH
WASTED AND EMBEZZLED
MILLIONS FOR ITS OWN
BENEFIT AND FOR ITS
HENCHMEN.**



→ También con los niños se ensalza la tragedia. Obsérvese que se encontraban las camas del pabellón infantil.

That was Cuba's psychiatric hospital; that was what the Revolution found. It had 2,000 beds at the time, if you could call them that, for more than 6,500 patients — in other words, three patients per bed. Most of them were without personal records, naked, receiving insufficient treatment or none at all, except for being chained to their beds when going through a crisis or for insulin shock or electroshock therapy, in addition to many other maladies and diseases, which are not hard to imagine given the conditions described.



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

It was early in the morning on Friday, November 30, 1956, and the city of Santiago de Cuba was awake. About 400 young people, in an attitude consistent with their commitment and with the involvement of the other inhabitants, were to make known the 26th of July Movement.

Frank País led the uprising as the head of the movement's General Staff.

Santiago de Cuba was a flowering bud. Its residents watched with amazement as their narrow, steep streets were filled with olive green.



The actions against the Santiago de Cuba police station began at 7 a.m.

“Then we saw Pepito Tey in the front car stick out his arm, clad in olive green with the July 26th Movement’s red-and-black armband, and raise his gun, his shout of ‘**Long live free Cuba!**’ repeated by the combatants who accompanied him. Frank could not contain himself, and answered with the same words.”



DOS DOS CUARTELES
Situación en Oriente', Dice Tabernilla
El País Cinco Muertos y Diez Heridos
en Choques con los Asaltantes

At the police station located on Intendente Hill, forty-one revolutionaries led by Pepito Tey, armed with valor and courage, attacked the dictator’s thugs with Molotov cocktails and gunfire, setting the main lair on fire. Urged on by a rebel’s voice, a policeman tried to surrender but was murdered by one of his own cohorts.



With cries of “Long live the Revolution!” and “**Down with Batista!**” answered by the people, the combatants arrived at the station. The Molotov cocktails began to rain down from the yard of the adjoining school. Shots fired by both groups crossed and exploded against the walls.... The explosions, with the help of the wind, turned into flames... and the building burned quickly.



A view of one of the police station’s entrances after the attack by the revolutionaries.

In the misty dawn, another group of 19 combatants attacked the Maritime Police on Lorraine Avenue, today Jesús Menéndez Avenue. After annihilating the sentry, the attackers occupied the station, seized the weapons and withdrew. At the corner of Porfirio Sánchez Valiente and Aguilera streets, the gun shop of the Dolores Hardware Store was robbed.

The area around the Secondary Learning Institute was witness to the longest shoot-out of the day.



“When the shoot-out began, a 12-year-old boy approached to help us. We told him to leave because they would kill him, and he answered, ‘What do you mean leave? Aren’t you all fighting? I’m a combatant, too.’

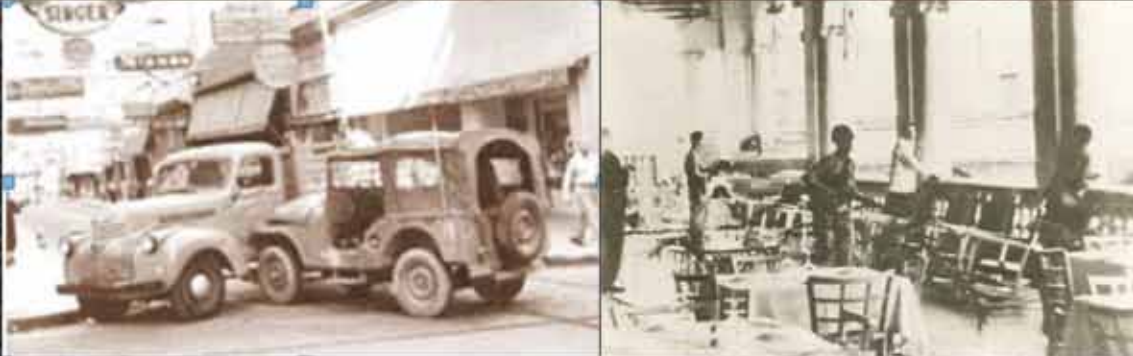
I remember that the cartridge belt was made of canvass, and when I would hold it up to fire at the airplanes, the bullets would fall out. Then the boy would pick them up and put them back into the belt.”



Weapons of all calibers spewed out fire and shrapnel. Alarms and sirens of the fire company, the Moncada garrison, the Navy. The sound of airplanes flying low. Fires throughout the city. The revolutionary army was controlling the streets.

The SANTIAGO EVENTS.

The city of Santiago de Cuba was in the hands of the revolutionaries for several hours, keeping the dictatorship's forces at bay.



The young revolutionaries José "Pepito" Tey Saint-Blancard, Otto Parellada Hechavarría, and Antonio "Tony" Alomá Serrano died during that fierce action.



The only thing capable of silencing Pepito was a bullet to the head. Even after being wounded, Otto Parellada did not stop firing. Until a burst of gunfire ended his life.

The uprising shook up the regime and implanted hope in a people willing to fight.

Protected and supported by the people, the revolutionaries spread out, but all of the solidarity of Santiago de Cuba was unable to prevent hundreds of arrests in the days that followed.

“The entire population of Santiago, impassioned and allied with the revolutionaries, cooperated unanimously with us. They cared for our injured, hid our armed men, and stored the weapons and uniforms of those being pursued; they encouraged us, lent us their homes and kept watch, alerting us to the army’s movements. It was beautiful to see the people cooperating so courageously throughout the most difficult moments of the struggle.”

Frank País, in underground edition of the newspaper *Revolución*.

Frank País, on trial for the November 30th events, together with Doña Rosario, his mother, and his girlfriend, the likewise combatant América Domitro.



November 30th will forever remain part of Cuban history.



After the court issued its ruling, the combatant sang the national anthem.



“From that moment on, the city of Santiago de Cuba entered a stage of relentless war against the dictatorship, and moreover, from that moment on, the 30th of November combatants, Frank País, and the city of Santiago became the frontline of the efficient rearguard which the entire people of Cuba had become, supporting the guerrilla nucleus that became organized in the Sierra Maestra despite all of the initial setbacks.”

Raúl Castro



On the *Granma* yacht, the news of the Santiago uprising was heard. Fidel, visibly frustrated at not being able to be with those combatants, told Faustino Pérez:

“I wish I had the power to fly.”

In terms of struggle, when we talk about people
Cubans without work...



This woman was picked up on one of Havana's largest, most centrally-located streets. Her face reflects the state of misery weighing her down. She collapsed on the sidewalk as a result of being in a state of extreme weakness. "It's been four days since I've eaten anything," she admitted after being assisted. *"I used to work in an elegant house in Vedado...but the family left the country and fired me."*

Bohemia magazine

... we're talking about the six hundred thousand

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



Out of a population of almost seven million, one-third was economically active; about 700,000 were unemployed and underemployed, and 45% of them were in the countryside.



This photo was provided to us by Infante, the journalist who had it taken. He is standing behind the child and next to the nurse who attended the little one. The father, desperate, tied his son to his tool box to go on the road and try find a scrap of food for the two of them.

Bohemia magazine, 1957

During the years of the Batista dictatorship, unemployment was one of the most critical problems of the time. A census taken in 1953, during the peak of seasonal employment (the sugar cane harvest), found only 51.5% of the active-age population had jobs. But the situation became worse, and about three years later, further studies revealed more serious problems.

WE FORGET NOTHING

WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET



Falleció el padre de L...

PROTESTAN LOS OBREROS

de los atropellos cometidos por la fuerza pública en el Central Manatí

Dirigentes de la FNTA se entrevistarán con Batista

Prensa

Encuesta Sobre Empleo y Desempleo

Hay en Cuba 361 Mil Personas sin Trabajo

La fuerza de trabajo en Cuba 1.9 mill...

PARALIZACION DE 24 HORAS DE LOS TRABAJADORES TEXTILES

Piñarán la fecha esta noche. Citas los Congresos de Federaciones de Industrias. Demanda de subsidios...

La Gota de Agua

Señalase que se trata de una campaña que puede ser...

Estima Bajo El Salario De la Zafra

Sección E

CLASIFICACION PROVINCIAL

Sin Conceder el Aumento

Millón y Medio DE CUBANOS SIN TRABAJO

O MAL REMUNERADOS Y UN CAMPESTINO MUY POBRE, ARROJA LA ENCUESTA DEL I SYMP (VEA COLUMNA TRES).

After the harvest months, the sugar mills keep a limited number of workers to ensure that maintenance needs are met. THE OTHERS ARE THROWN OUT, "TO GET BY AS BEST THEY CAN!"

Rural workers who remain in the area and are jobless resort to the mill owners' stores to buy overpriced goods on credit. When the next harvest begins, a large part of their daily income is used to pay off the debts of the hard times.

AT THIS TIME, MORE THAN 400,000 AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ARE UNEMPLOYED.



The loan sharks take advantage of the "dead time." What they lend now, they will collect with interest at harvest time.

A small percentage of rural workers who cut sugar cane participate in the planting at starvation pay. They are forced to accept it because their children, full of parasites, wait in the

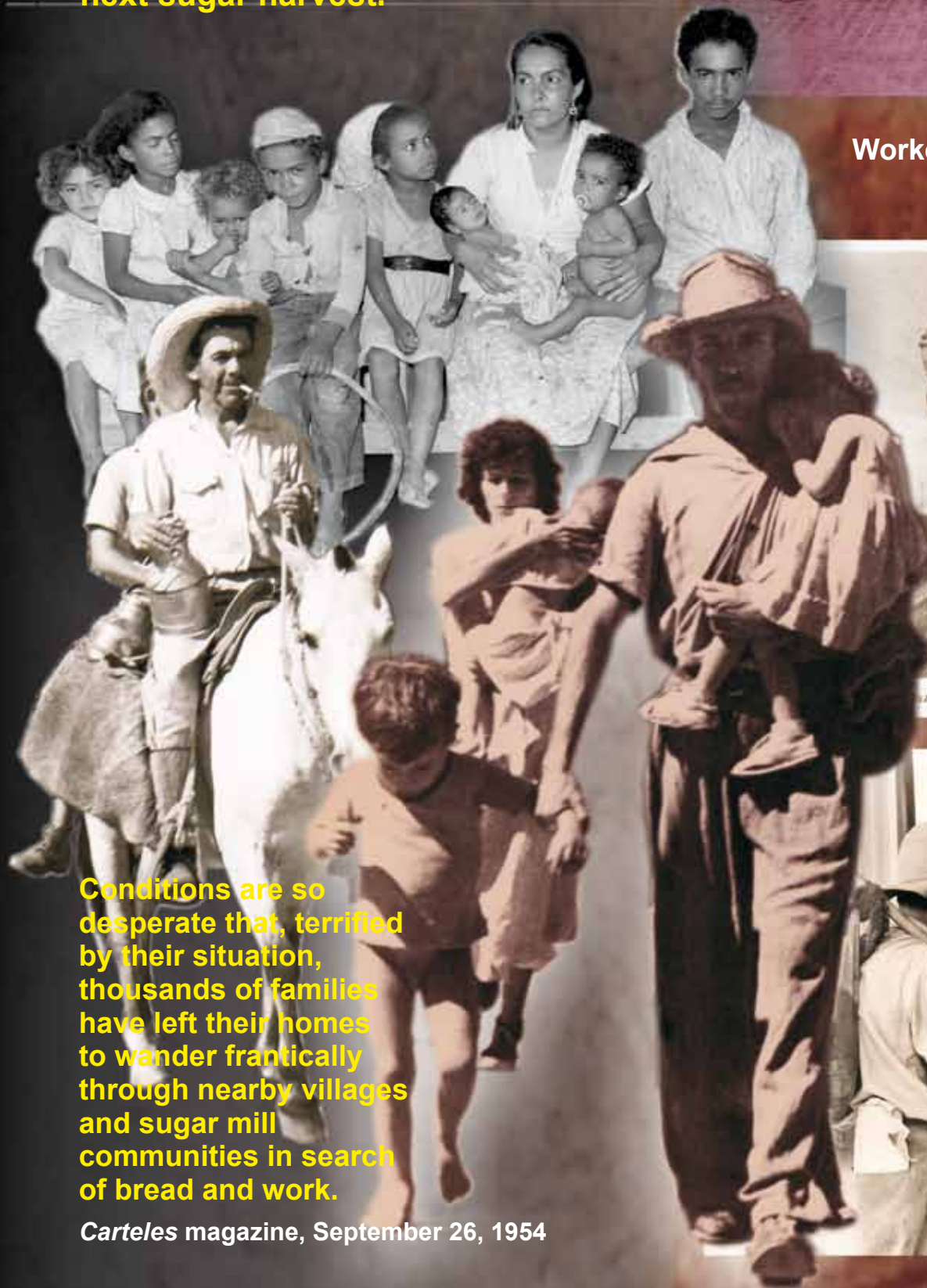
doorways of their hovels every afternoon for their fathers' return.



The other, very high percentage not employed in this work must migrate — often with the family — in search of “better” places where they may work entire days in exchange for a can of corn flour and sweet potatoes, essential to ensuring that their loved ones make it alive to the next sugar harvest.



Worker heading east in search of work.



Conditions are so desperate that, terrified by their situation, thousands of families have left their homes to wander frantically through nearby villages and sugar mill communities in search of bread and work.



...zándose hacia Oriente en busca de trabajo.





The cities are invaded by entire families with desperation chiseled into their eyes.



En cubanos emigran de un fallo patológico en la vida económica emplea

EL NIVEL DE VIDA DEL PUEBLO CUBANO

El ingreso «per cápita» del pueblo cubano apenas llega a los \$340 anuales. Esto es consecuencia del subdesarrollo en que se encuentra la economía del país, el cual se refleja en las condiciones materiales de vida de los grupos sociales mayoritarios, agobiados por el desempleo, el subempleo y en general los bajos ingresos. En este artículo se resumen prácticamente todos los datos hoy disponibles sobre el nivel de vida de una población que por primera vez en su historia tiene ahora la oportunidad de superar las terribles condiciones en que ha sido mantenida secularmente.

TERRIBLE ODYSSEY. FROM CAMAGÜEY ON FOOT (continued)

The man's name is José Antonio Tamayo Juanelo. He is 39 years old and last lived at 157 Teniente Anón in Camagüey, and the children are his: Antonio, Virgen, and José Diego Tamayo Camacho, 10, 7 and 5 years old, and they came to Havana from Camagüey. For months, they journeyed along the Central Highway. Along some stretches, they were saved by the generosity of drivers, but most of the way was on foot, such as the last part from Madruga to Havana. (continued)



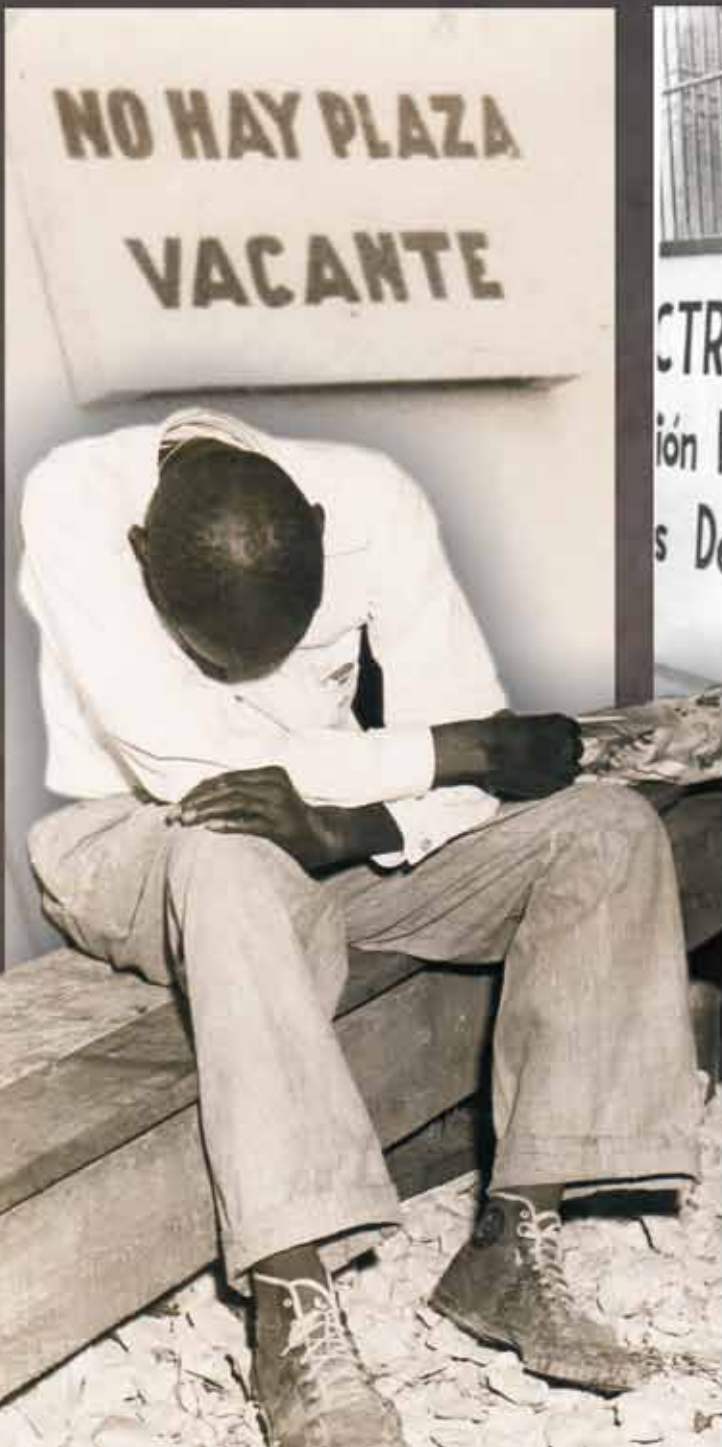
These are the people, the ones who know misfortune and, therefore, are capable of fighting with limitless courage!

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

In terms of struggle, when we talk about people... the ten thousand young professional people: doctors, engineers, lawyers, veterinarians, school teachers, dentists, pharmacists, newspapermen, painters, sculptors, etc., who finish school with their degrees anxious to work and full of hope, only to find themselves at a dead end, all doors closed to them, and where no ears hear their clamor or supplication....

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



With this background, is it not understandable that from May to December over a million persons are jobless and that Cuba, with a population of five and a half million, has a greater number of unemployed than France or Italy with a population of forty million each?

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

ON
RA

361,000
150,000
154,000
665,000
1,539,000

SE OFRECE MUCHACHO DE 18 años para mensajero oficina, comercio, de utilidad en los mismos, cosa análoga, excelente referencias, Roberto, Gervasio No. 260 bajos Apto. 1
H - 5250 - 82 - 17

For thousands of young people who arrive at the age considered fit for work, perspectives of finding a job are very remote, regardless of their abilities and training.

Carteles magazine, September 26, 1954

When construction began on a tunnel under Havana Bay, so many people came looking for work that a public disturbance took place. Below, those hoping for a job line up to fill out a form enabling them to obtain work.



In the port of Havana, only two out of every eight laborers obtain work each day. The rest must stand by without earning a cent.

Carteles magazine 1956.

WE FORGET NOTHING



In terms of struggle, **when we talk about people...** the *four hundred thousand* industrial workers and laborers whose retirement funds have been embezzled, whose benefits are being taken away, whose homes are wretched quarters, whose salaries pass from the hands of the boss to those of the moneylender, whose future is a pay reduction and dismissal, whose life is endless work and whose only rest is the tomb.

Fidel Castro,
History Will Absolve Me



In the Las Yaguas neighborhood, thousands of people lived without electricity, running water or sewers.



There was no Christmas or Three Kings Day for her

Para Ella no Hubo Nochebuena ni Reyes

pectores Para Chapas
fórmó en la Dirección de
de la Ley de Obras Pú-
que hoy acorarán las ins-
al Colegio Provincial de
las, a la Marina de Gue-
en la Página A-10, Col. 4)

ción una u Madre

oche Abrazada al
de Gran Miseric

uálido y demutido escu-
madre, Isabel María que
de 43 años, una de las
mujer que hace much
mostraba su penuria y des-
la por las calles impo-
caridad de las personas

ando el día, el Hanto de
madre despertó a varios
que asudieron a interve-
lo que ocurría, quienes
en tirado sobre el cuer-
sada y apretada al cuer-
lupita, a quien boca de
taba de volver a la vi-
cador del suyo, enferme-
le de aguda anemia, se-
la que tronchó prema-
la existencia de la

on Hacho Posible
ros momentos los
ados por tan es-
na A-10, Col. 1)



Durante años arrastró con su madre miserias inenarrables. Un destino trágico persiguió a Mercedes Moya Rodríguez. Apenas contaba 13 años de edad y ayer fue encontrada muerta, muerta de hambre, en una casucha situada detrás de la Ermita de Arroyo Arenas. (Foto: Rafael Pegudo).

Norcas Tofonel
El jefe de la Policía
comandante Polanco de
ayer por la mañana
el arresto del asesino
outor Wadi, señor El
Lo y al del centón de
lor H. Potágoz.
Detenido a esta actua
mostrar, que había
chato de salida desde
último por el Centón
de La Sibana con sus
cio realizado por la d
fremos en la Página.

Arrestado Pedir Au A la Poli

Habían Hurtad
Auto y Querían
Fueran Empuj

La multa de cuatro pe-
dir a las policías que
el accidente que los
hacer se marcha el m-
tirado que acababan de
esta que fueran des-
arrestados.

Los protagonistas de
el suceso se nombran I-
rales Vázquez, de 21
años, en Villa Hermosa
comino, Miguel Lamas
de 17 años, vecino de
del Fedon 472, y Raf-
fremos en la Página.

In every workplace, at least one loan shark carried out his parasitical work, ready to "help out" with any financial need. If your child fell sick or a relative died, and you had no money for dealing with the situation, you most likely resorted to a loan shark.

If you borrowed 50 pesos, you had to make an interest payment of 10 (20%) every month. Because it was difficult to scrape up the 50 pesos and pay it all off, the indebted person could spend years paying 10 pesos every month and still owe the original 50.

On payday, the loan sharks would situate themselves like guard dogs at workplace entrances.

For years, she and her mother underwent indescribable misery. A tragic destiny awaited Mercedes Moya Rodríguez. Just 13 years old, she was found yesterday, dead of starvation, in a shack behind the Ermita de Arroyo Arenas religious center.



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

The scandal of gambling

The \$100 million for gambling on “la charada,” “la bolita” and the lottery

Cubans are spending some \$100 million — according to the most conservative estimates — to gamble on numbers games like “la charada” and “la bolita” and on lottery tickets. And that’s not to mention what they spend on the roulette, bingo, neighborhood lotteries, private raffles and advertising gift programs.... All of this rakes in an average of 16 pesos per capita annually, possibly the highest amount in the world.... Never before in the history of Cuba have people gambled so much and with such impunity as now. In the capital, there are more than 1,000 betting counters, and more than 100 “bolita” draws every day. They are the foundations of the most profitable business in the country. The betting bank returns to the public as prizes only a small portion of what customers pay to play....

This means that those who gamble — laborers, office workers, professionals, business people, and investors— are voluntarily handing over part of their income to benefit those who run the system. Some individuals might win more than what they paid out. But considered collectively, the public always loses. **The betting bank always wins.**

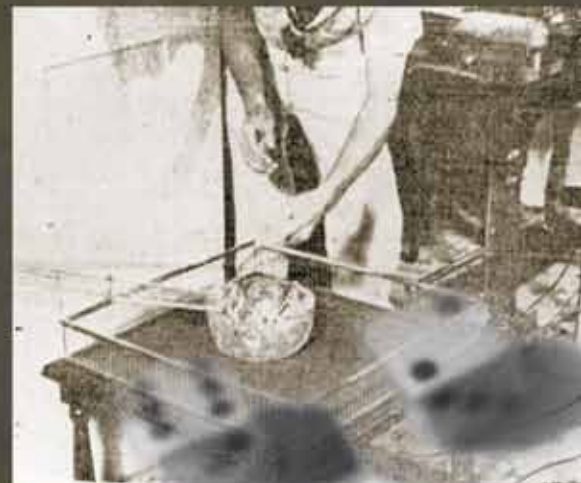


Chino de la charada.



The most expensive vocal duo in the world is that of the young people who work for the Beneficencia and “sing” the National Lottery every Saturday. That program costs the Cuban people about \$50 million annually. People have to pay up so that this business, which is illegal, can operate with more freedom and rights than if it were protected by the Constitution.

Carteles magazine, March 9, 1958



**THE LARGEST PORTION IS
DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE
“COLLECTORS” (10%) AND ABOVE
ALL AMONG THE BANKERS AND
THEIR POWERFUL PROTECTORS.**



This means that the three or four dozen large betting banks that operate in the capital of our Republic and its surroundings took in about \$19 million in 1957, dirty money to be sure. We should remember that the leniency shown toward gambling — which is illegal, immoral and contrary to national interests in every aspect — is not free. Generous sums must be distributed to a list that begins with the corner cop and goes up to the station chief and the boss's boss, all the way up to the presidential palace.

You permitted the increase of illegal gambling throughout the entire Republic, with the fabulous sums collected entering right through the main door of the Presidential Palace itself, in order to fatten deposits “for works of charity....”

Letter from the chief of Batista's army, Francisco Tabernilla y Dolz, to former dictator Fulgencio Batista, on August 24, 1960



Colonel Conrado Carratalá y Ugalde, chief of the Administrative Department and president of the Administrative Department's Economic Board



Commander Esteban Ventura Novo, Third District Inspector, National Police



Following “hints” and superstition, people make their bets at street-corner counters. Coins are swallowed up by the slot machines in cafés and pool halls.

Thousands of dollars disappear on the green roulette tables controlled by the international gambling mafia! Never before in history have a people been more dependent on chance than the Cuban people are now.

LIKewise, NEVER BEFORE DID STATE SPONSORSHIP OF GAMBLING EXIST LIKE IT DOES IN CUBA TODAY.

Carteles magazine, March 9, 1958



Why do Cubans gamble?

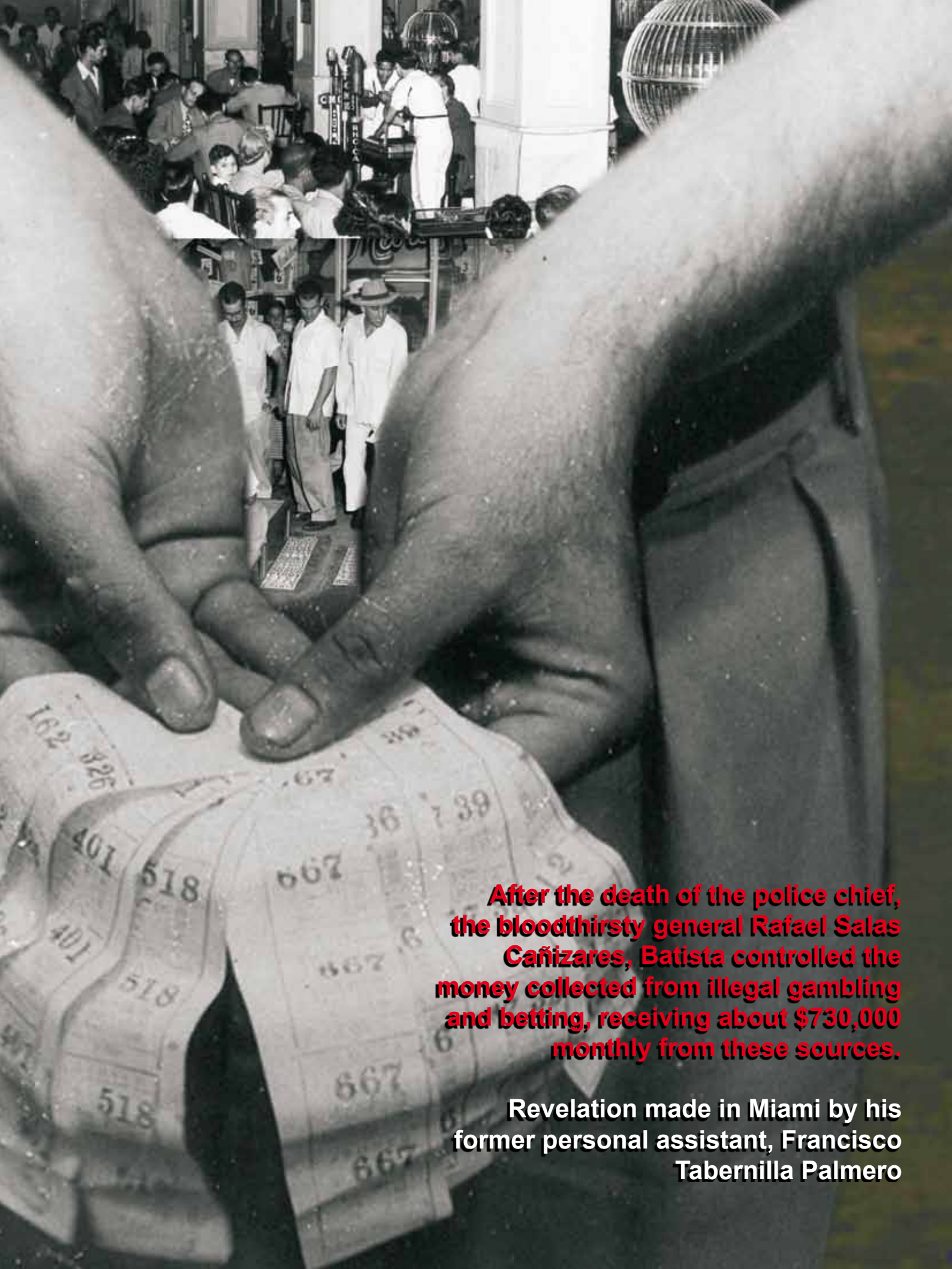
The one-crop economy, unemployment, and the financial difficulties and hardships of large layers of the population all constitute a powerful motivation to seek relief in the hope of drawing a prize.

We cannot silence the fact that it is the State itself — which maintains the National Lottery and covers up for illegal gambling — which permits and is the principal driving force of this vice.

Why? Because gambling is the great ally of regimes that want to escape crisis using means that tend to distract the people's attention from the real problems and their solution.

Carteles magazine, March 9, 1958

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!



After the death of the police chief, the bloodthirsty general Rafael Salas Cañizares, Batista controlled the money collected from illegal gambling and betting, receiving about \$730,000 monthly from these sources.

Revelation made in Miami by his former personal assistant, Francisco Tabernilla Palmero

Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar

The owner, always through third parties, of several companies in the mass media. Owner of the evening newspaper *Alerta* (...)

Owner of Canal 12 S.A.

Owner of Gente S.A., of the weekly *Gente*.

Owner of several radio stations: RHC Cadena Azul de Cuba S.A.

Sole proprietor of Cuba Aeropostal, an airlines specializing in freight, express and mail....

Majority owner of the airline Aerovías Q...

The principle stockholder in Compañía Cubana de Aviación S.A., controlling more than two-thirds of its private capital....

A secret owner of the Compañía Interamericana de Transportes por Carretera S.A., the company that monopolized freight and express truck transport....

Owner of the Compañía de Transporte Miller.

Owner of the Compañía Naviera Isla del Tesoro S.A.

Chief owner of the Hoteles Isla del Tesoro S.A., of the El Colony hotel and motel, located on the Isle of Pines.



Fifty-percent stakeholder in Playas del Golfo S.A.

Owner of \$326,000 in Radio Siboney S.A. stock.

Owner of the Cadena Oriental de Radio....

Owner of the Circuito Nacional Cubano S.A.

Owner of Unión Radio....

....Owner of the Compañía Inversiones Radiales S.A.

**It was learned that collectors
were sent from the Palace to
casinos to pick up large sums
of money.**



El cadáver de este joven apareció al fondo del Volcán de San Sahún, última de las cimas. Se cree que poseyó grandes dotes de poeta.



SEPTIEMBRE
Septiembre 16. En 20 y Tercero.

[illegible]

Agosto 27.—Cuentos sobre a valente
eufemia final de la vida don-
de María Edmarhe R. Gómez, ex
hospice de Calix, inmortaliza in-
cansante los sufrimientos Villa Poma

Once in a while, unidentified bodies in an advanced state of decay would appear. That was the case with this skeleton, impossible to identify even though clothing remnants were found.

December 29: At the Delegación de Colonos, at the San Isidro Sugar Mill in Güines, Filiberto Espino Ruiz, 18, who lived on the Machado Farm, died after being shot in the head by members of the police and Rural Guard.

January
January 12. On the corner of 15th and 60th in the Buenavista neighborhood, Bernardo Chaples Ramos, 19, of 2962 Avenida Sexta, was shot three times. His attackers were unknown.

February

February 6: On the highway from Santiago de Las Vegas to El Rincón, the young woman Enélida González Hernández was found half naked, with an injured foot and one eyebrow shaved off. The University of Havana law and social sciences student had been kidnapped by the occupants of a car and taken blindfolded to

a police facility, where she was tortured and abused by various women who also forced her to ingest a bottle of castor oil.

February 11: On Obispo Street, Lázaro Travieso, 27, of 119 Reina, was killed after being shot twice following a scuffle with police officer Remigio Pujol Núñez.

March

March 5: On the corner of San Antonio and Martí in Guanabacoa, 22-year-old student Francisco Rodríguez Sánchez was injured after being shot by the private police agent José Gaytán Bello.

April

April 11: Security guard Raúl Martell Lima shot at the 12-year-old boy Elpidio Pérez García, a resident of Marianao Beach, after searching him and finding a package of pellets in his pocket.



The body of this young man was found in back of the Palace of Justice. He had been shot to death. His burial led to major disturbances in Havana.

June

June 23: Pedro Otaño Alfonso, 26, of 26 Iglesias Street, was found dead with 15 gunshot wounds on El Morro Road in front of the Cazadores Club in Santiago de Cuba.

Also found dead, with 10 gunshot wounds, was 28-year-old Manuel Sosa, known as "The Boxer," on the highway from Santiago de Cuba to El Cobre.

July

Nineteen-year-old Guido Falcón Ruiz, of 309 Amargura, was admitted to the hospital in critical condition after being shot on the corner of Consulado and Virtudes.

July 17: Rafael Echevarría, of 106 Corona in Santiago de Cuba, was shot to death by soldier Eduardo Martínez, who claimed he threatened him with a machete.



Rogelio Paredes Careaga was a medical student. After he was reported missing, he was found on the Vía Blanca highway with 13 gunshot wounds.

August

August 17: In the Yayal neighborhood of Holguín, the laborer Manuel Rojas was found bound and gagged. Several unknown individuals had asked him where he hid his weapons and had brutally beaten him.

September

September 13: On 30th and Tercera Avenida, in Miramar, the body of a young man was thrown from a car. He was wearing gray pants, a flowered shirt and brown shoes, and appeared to be about 25 years old.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S
REBELLIOUSNESS AND REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO THE
COUP OF MARCH 10, 1952 WITHOUT MENTIONING:

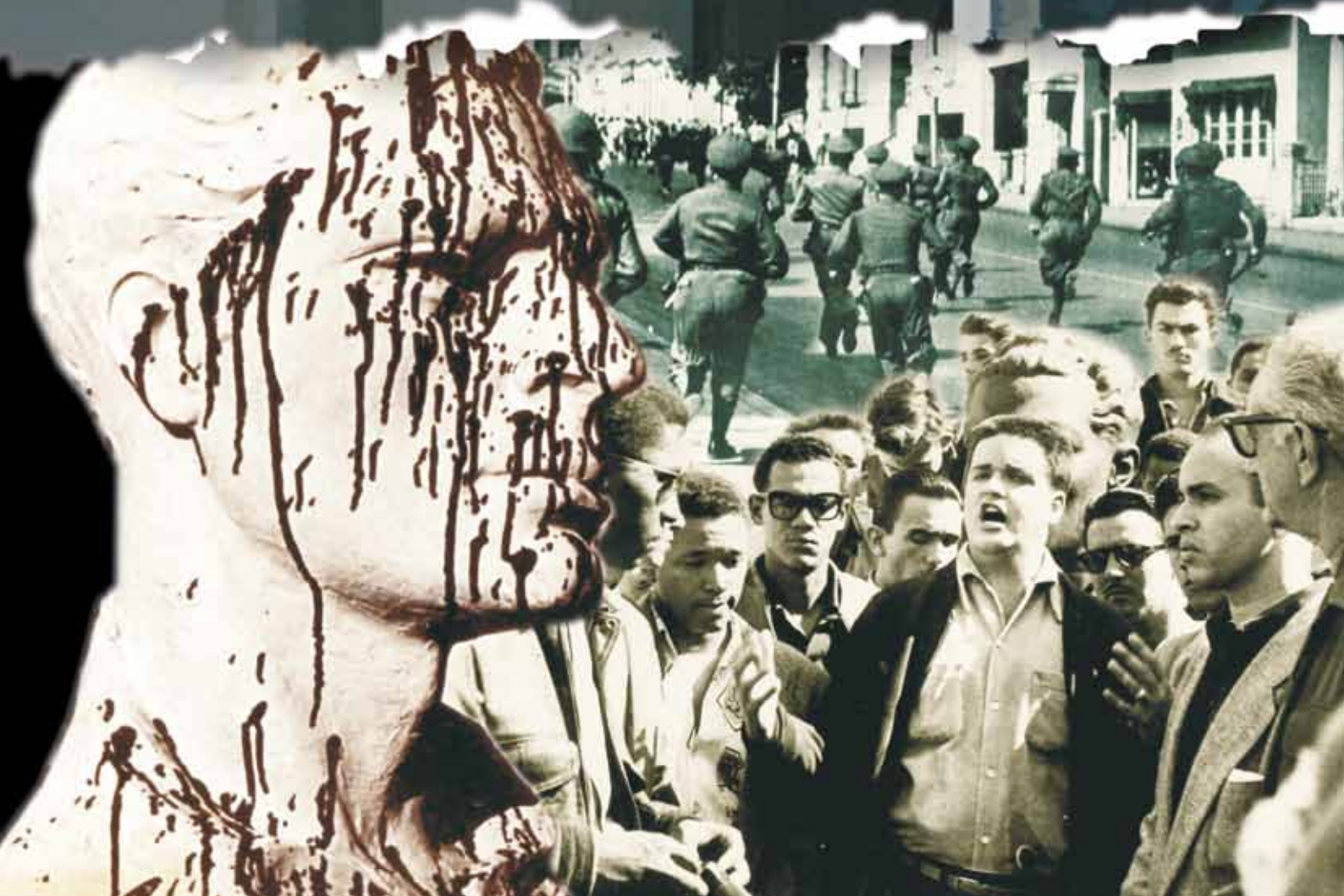
The University of Havana

This is where Abel Santamaría and Fidel Castro strolled, with their dreams of the future. This is where the Moncada combatants carried out their first military practice. This is where José Antonio Echeverría and Fructuoso Rodríguez met.





On January 10, 1953, the 24th anniversary of the murder of Julio Antonio Mella was being commemorated, and the Federation of University Students (FEU) had agreed to temporarily place a plaster bust of the anti-imperialist leader in the small plaza at San Lázaro and L streets in front of the main entrance to the campus. Five days later, the first students who went to class saw with astonishment that Mella's bust had been defiled, stained with ink.



January 15, 1953. The outrage committed against the Mella bust sparked an indignant reaction from students. The whole area around the university became a veritable battlefield, all of San Lázaro Street from the main campus entrance to Paseo del Prado near the palace.

WE FORGET NOTHING



THE UNIVERSITY YOUTH, ALWAYS
A SOURCE OF HEROES AND MARTYRS,
ENERGETICALLY PROTESTED THE
DICTATORSHIP AND PAID FOR IT WITH
THEIR GENEROUS LIVES AND BLOOD.

Down with the dictator

It was a heartrending scene:
busted heads, fractured arms,
blood-stained shirts sprayed
with water. The Batista hounds
tried to hide their cowardice
with cruelty.



orship! Batista's head!



They fought hard against the repressive agents of the army, police and navy at San Lázaro and Prado. José Antonio led the vanguard that confronted the bullets with their fists. The outcome was comrades brutally beaten and injured, including one very critically: Rubén Batista Rubio, who died on February 13th. A bullet had entered his liver and perforated his small intestine. Fidel and José Antonio were there during his days of agony and his death.



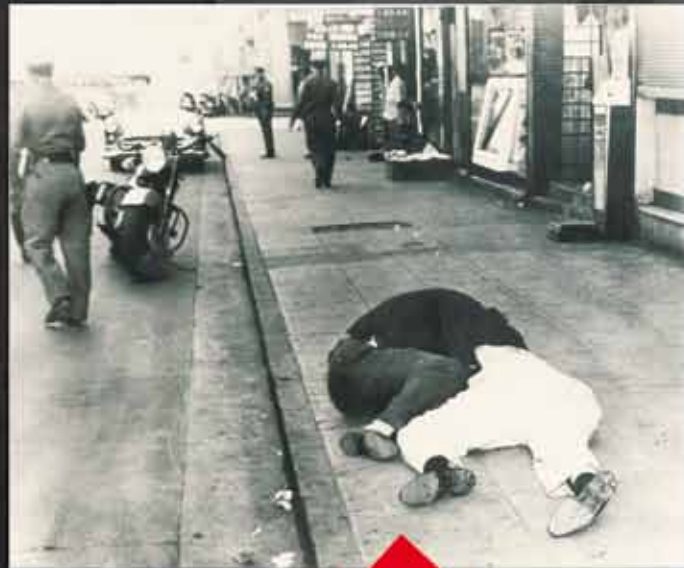
“We hold that only a deep-going transformation of our political, economic and social reality can cure the maladies of our homeland. The immediate problem in Cuba is to overthrow the usurper Fulgencio Batista and establish a democratic government, and then to embark on a revolutionary project to solve the problem of the unemployed, the landless peasants, the exploited workers, and the youth condemned to economic exile. Cuba urgently needs a real revolution that can tear away what Martínez Villena in his impassioned verses called ‘the hard scab of the colonial period.’ With Martí I proclaim:

‘The rights of the people are to be seized, not begged for; they are conquered with blood, not tears...’”

José Antonio Echeverría,
November 19, 1955



On the second anniversary of the death of Rubén Batista, on another march to San Lázaro and Prado with the same energy and determination as in 1953, another group of young people were injured by the forces of repression, a long list that began with the name of the FEU president.



José Antonio Echeverría and his brother Alfredo, both brutally beaten. Below, Fulgencio Oroz goes to the aid of Fructuoso Rodríguez. In back of them, a Batista henchman stands, club in hand.

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

On May 15, 1955, Fidel and the other combatants of the Moncada and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrisons are released from prison. José Antonio invites Fidel to give closing remarks at the May 20th event on the University steps.



More demonstrations are repressed: in Havana, in Santiago, and two in Ciego de Ávila. In the first Ciego de Ávila protest, worker Raúl Cervantes Cervantes is injured, dying days later. The second protest — the largest demonstration held in that city — takes place during the funeral for the fallen revolutionary. More than 300 students are arrested in Havana alone.

The university's autonomy is violated when the dictatorship's repressive hordes carry out a massive attack, led by Chief of Police General Salas Cañizares and Orlando Piedra, chief of the Bureau of Investigation.



ABRIL DE 1956: LA GARRA FERRO
DE LA TIRANIA DESTROZA
LA UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA

IVA Batesta
L' Gmlio y Salas Com



The actions of the stadium in Cerro on Sunday, December 4, 1955, in which students are brutally beaten, as seen on television. On December 5, women come together in protest and the Civic Front of Women Followers of Martí marched through downtown Havana in a combative, massive demonstration. On December 7, at a demonstration from Maceo Park to the University, serious injuries and arrests, including Camilo Cienfuegos. The struggle is relentless. On January 28, 1956, violent clashes with the police in Havana's Central Park.



WHAT WE CAN





NOT FORGET



On November 27, 1956,
**STUDENTS BEGIN A
STRIKE THAT ENDS
UP CANCELLING
THEIR CLASSES
INDEFINITELY. SCHOOL
DOES NOT START
AGAIN UNTIL AFTER
THE INSURRECTION IS
VICTORIOUS.**

March 13, 1957

Assault on the Presidential Palace

“We have held and continue to hold that in response to the nation’s problems, there can be only two attitudes: those who are with Cuba and against Batista, and those who are on Batista’s side against Cuba.... We will continue our struggle together with the people to recover our citizens’ trampled liberties and dignity.... Only vigorous national action designed to give expression to the postulates of the Cuban Revolution — the road our country is now on — can do away with this ruthless sad stage of our republican history.”

José Antonio Echeverría, April 24, 1955

MARZO

Sol 6.41 a 6.37 - Cuarto Creciente
Luna Llena el 15

13

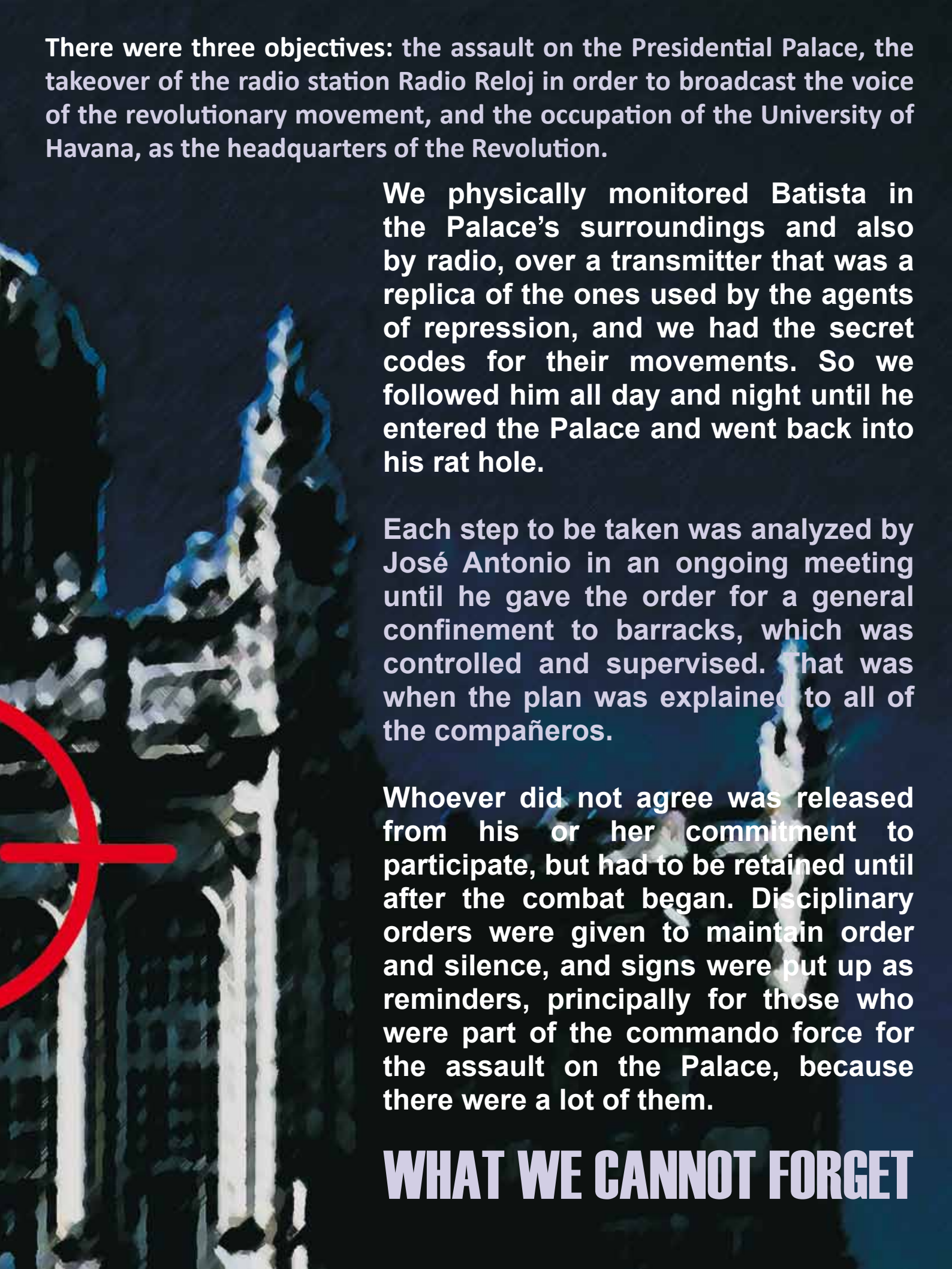
Santos Leandro az. Ramiro Rodrigo y
Salomón y Sta. Modesta, virgen

MIERCOLES

1883 Gómez y Maceo obtienen del Go-
bierno de Honduras una conce-
sión para cultivar tabaco.

13 de marzo de 1957 El parte meteoroló-
gico del Observatorio anunciaba: “porción
idental: vientos del sudoeste al sur,
llevando a brisote durante el día.”





There were three objectives: the assault on the Presidential Palace, the takeover of the radio station Radio Reloj in order to broadcast the voice of the revolutionary movement, and the occupation of the University of Havana, as the headquarters of the Revolution.

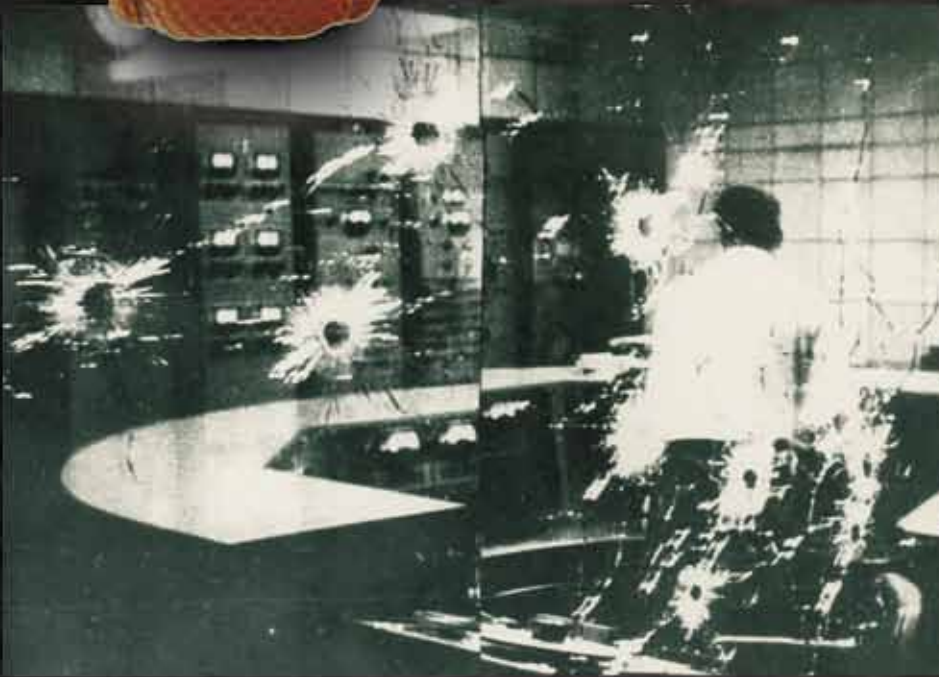
We physically monitored Batista in the Palace's surroundings and also by radio, over a transmitter that was a replica of the ones used by the agents of repression, and we had the secret codes for their movements. So we followed him all day and night until he entered the Palace and went back into his rat hole.

Each step to be taken was analyzed by José Antonio in an ongoing meeting until he gave the order for a general confinement to barracks, which was controlled and supervised. That was when the plan was explained to all of the compañeros.

Whoever did not agree was released from his or her commitment to participate, but had to be retained until after the combat began. Disciplinary orders were given to maintain order and silence, and signs were put up as reminders, principally for those who were part of the commando force for the assault on the Palace, because there were a lot of them.

WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

At 3:17, a car stopped in front of the Radiocentro (now the Yara Movie Theater). The president of the FEU and a group of young revolutionaries got out. They were all university students. They were heading for Radio Reloj.



Echeverría, club in hand, placed an envelope on the table. He pointed with his index finger to the words that were written. The announcer obeyed:

**“Radio Reloj reporting! Radio Reloj reporting!
“Presidential Palace attacked by a non-identified group of civilians using rifles and machine guns...”**



The news was repeated. José Antonio's finger pointed to another paragraph. The announcer pressed the microphone button again:

"Considering the gravity of the events, the president of the Federation of University Students, José Antonio Echeverría, will address the people of Cuba!"

"People of Cuba, the dictator Fulgencio Batista has gotten what he deserved. In his own lair...!"

Seconds later the broadcast stopped. He left the radio station and headed by car to the university, where he planned to establish the command post for the insurrection that he expected to occur.



Minutes later, he died in an encounter with a police car. **He was shot down by a burst of machine-gun fire.**



They attacked the beast in its lair

Meanwhile, at the Presidential Palace, the bulk of the combatants had managed to neutralize the sentries and enter. Bullets flew on its upper floors.



In Batista's office, the telephone rang. Pepe Wangüemert, one of the attackers, answered the call. Somebody wanted to know if it was true that they had killed the "president":

"Yes, you are talking to a member of the armed militia of the Revolutionary Directorate. We have just taken over the Palace and we have killed Batista."

The rebels advanced in two groups, moving through hallways and rooms. Along the way they stopped terrified servants. "Quick, where is Batista?" Nobody could say. With the first shots, the tyrant had disappeared from the scene. He hid in a corner of his lair, deep inside a closet, crouched down behind a piece of furniture, or maybe behind a wall on the roof. The garrison troops retreat to the third floor and open fire with heavy-caliber weapons.



CASUALTIES AMONG THE REBELS BEGIN TO MULTIPLY

Reinforcements came from the Columbia military base. Batista came out of his hiding place. He wanted blood. The wounded attackers were finished off. The heroic act did not go unnoticed by the people of Cuba. The rebelliousness grew.

CORRUPTION AND MURDER

THE TELEPHONE COMPANY IN COMPLICITY WITH THE DICTATOR

It is no secret that the Cuban Telephone Company conducted itself deviously from the very start, utilizing despicable procedures.

Bohemia magazine, February 1, 1959



In its unbridled thirst for profits, the Cuban Telephone Company did not hesitate to implement a series of measures openly violating the stipulations to which it was committed. Some Havana lawyers, such as the outstanding Dr. Pelayo Cuervo Navarro, took the matter to the courts.

The Cuban Telephone Company saw every door open wide on March 10, 1952, when Fulgencio Batista and his gang of thieves took power through a coup d'état. The president of the International Telephone Company at the time, Mr. Sosthenes Benn, realizing the magnitude of the business to come, visited Havana often and met a number of times with the usurper of the Republic's presidency.



In 1955, Pelayo Cuervo revealed the shifty dealings of the Cuban Telephone Company, demonstrating with facts and figures that the foreign business was raking in juicy profits at the cost of Cuba's citizens, and that a hike in telephone rates should not be permitted. He vigorously opposed the authorization of new perks for the telephone monster, included in the draft decree law No. 552.



On March 13, the assault on the Presidential Palace was carried out by a group of young revolutionaries from the Student Revolutionary Directorate.

After the failed attempt to execute the dictator, Batista, astute and sinister, ordered the assassination of Dr. Pelayo Cuervo Navarro. He assigned the task to Colonel Orlando Piedra Negueruela, chief of the National Police Bureau of Investigation.



GALLERY of MURDERERS

Orlando Piedra Negueruela was chief of the Bureau of Investigation. The building housing the Fifth Military District had been converted into a veritable fortress with electrified fencing, like the Nazi camps, and above all, with dungeons where the regime's henchmen had their torture rooms. Negueruela was not one of the most bloodthirsty ones; he can't be compared, it is true, to the likes of Ventura and Carratalá, but he cannot be exempt from punishment, because he provided his name and authority for many actions that would diminish anyone's status as a soldier.

They wasted no time in arriving at the home of the president of the Party of the Cuban People (Orthodox). The two sergeants, machine guns in hand, knocked loudly on the door while their men spread out to prevent any attempt at escape. Somebody answered the door.

"Where is Pelayo Cuervo?"

They put him in the back of the black Cadillac and Sgt. Gutiérrez sat next to him on the right. But they did not drive him to the Bureau of Investigation or any other police station; instead, both vehicles drove toward a lonely, dark location: El Laguito.

"Tell me, doctor, where do they hide the weapons?" Gutiérrez asked.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Come on, doctor, save yourself a bad time..." the sergeant's tone was both mocking and condescending.

"I have nothing to say."

"Talk or we'll kill you."

"You might kill me, but you can't force me to say something I don't know," Cuervo answered, and Gutiérrez's fist thudded against his face.

Then started the session of physical abuse and ill-treatment, blows and insults, for a 56-year-old lawyer whose only weapons were his intelligence and the fact he had become an uncompromising prosecutor of all of the outrages and excesses of the dictatorship and its uniformed gangs. Pelayo Cuervo was hunched over on the seat and his head had sunken onto his chest. His eyeglasses had fallen.

"Talk, yes or no?"

"There's nothing I can tell you."

A shot rang out. The sergeant had fired point-blank. With the help of the men who were outside, they pulled him out of the car and threw him onto the wet grass. Then they emptied another six bullets into the body of the most distinguished individual of Cuba's traditional opposition movement.

A recreation of the events based on transcripts of the perpetrators' trial



El Laguito



On the same night of Dr. Pelayo Cuervo's murder, March 13, the dictator signed Decree-Law 552, which annulled the agreements signed in 1909 between the Cuban state and the Cuban Telephone Company, a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT). This led to a new concession enabling the company to raise its rates, exempting it from paying 4% of its gross income to the Cuban Treasury, and authorizing it to pass on any increase in taxes to customers. It also freed the company from paying provincial and municipal taxes.

The details of the agreement reached between Batista and the telephone monopoly's executives are still not fully known. But the generally accepted version is that Batista put a price of two million pesos, just for him, as a condition for the approval of Decree 552.

**AFTER THE VICTORY OF JANUARY 1, 1959, THE
FILE ON THE TELEPHONE RATE INCREASES NEVER
APPEARED.**

The telephone problem

The FILE on TELEPHONE RATE INCREASES IS MISSING



An ITT representative presents Batista with a gold telephone.

April 20, 1957

7 HUMBOLT: Death on Holy Saturday

"All ye that pass by! Behold, and see if there be any pain like unto my pain."

A policeman nicknamed "Negritico" walked down Hospital Street, gun in hand, obliging residents to enter and stay inside their houses

The deployment of forces was very large, with the greatest concentration in front of the building where, in effect, four young revolutionaries were hiding. By the nightly news hour, they were dead: Fructuoso Rodríguez Pérez, Juan Pedro Carbó Serviá, Joe Westbrook Rosales and José Machado Rodríguez.





A neighborhood woman waiting in her doorway to watch the Holy Saturday procession saw Ventura suddenly arrive surrounded as usual by his henchmen, well-dressed and with an enormous whip in his hand.

"Get inside!" he yelled as he walked by. She scurried and heard him say, **"BRING THEM TO ME DEAD!"**



WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

Joe Westbrook reached the lower-floor apartment and asked the woman living there to let him in. She agreed, and Joe tranquilly sat down on a sofa inside.... Minutes later, they knocked on the door.... Still a gentleman, even on the threshold of death, he calmed the woman and opened the door. Seeing that he was practically a boy, the woman pleaded with the henchmen not to hurt him, out of humanity. He had walked a few meters down the hall and reached the staircase when a burst of machine-gun fire knocked him onto the floor....

April 20, 1957 7 HUMBOLT: Death on Holy Saturday

His face remained intact, making him appear asleep in the coffin.



...They dragged all the bodies, pulling them by the hair, to the sidewalk. And then they dragged them to the next corner. People on their balconies began calling out for mercy and giving angry shouts of protest. An older woman who was watching helplessly from her balcony fainted. A burst of machine-gun fire kept curious neighbors at bay.



WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

THE TESTIMONY REGARDING THIS HORRIBLE EVENT INCLUDES A VERY FAMOUS PHOTO DEPICTING A SMALL BOY AT THE FOOT OF A STAIRCASE IN THE BUILDING WHERE THESE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED. THE BOY IS LOOKING AT THE THICK STREAM OF BLOOD DRIPPING DOWN THE STAIRS AND FORMING A POOL ON THE FLOOR.

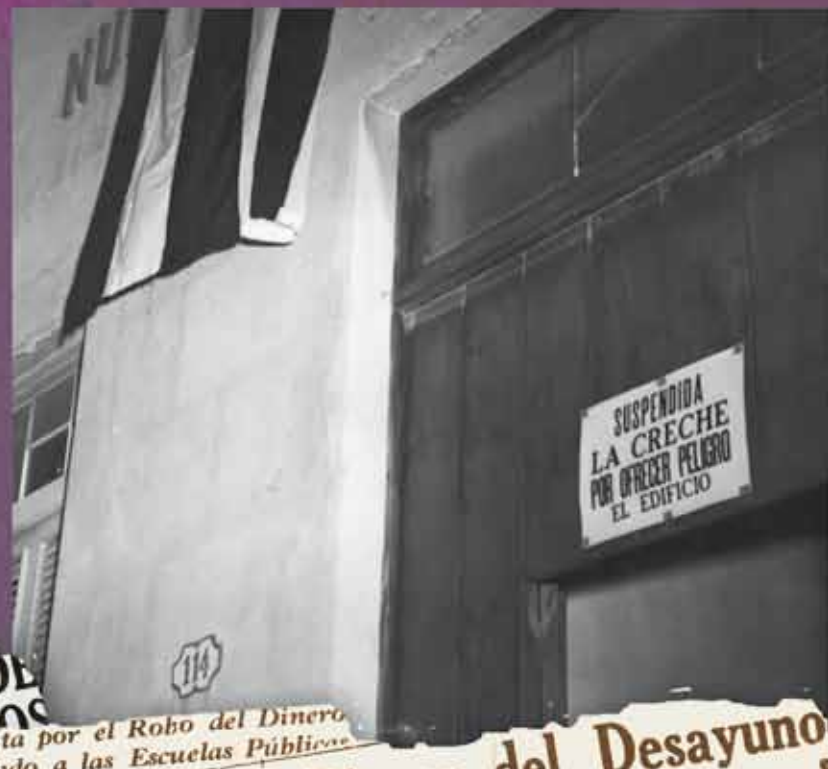
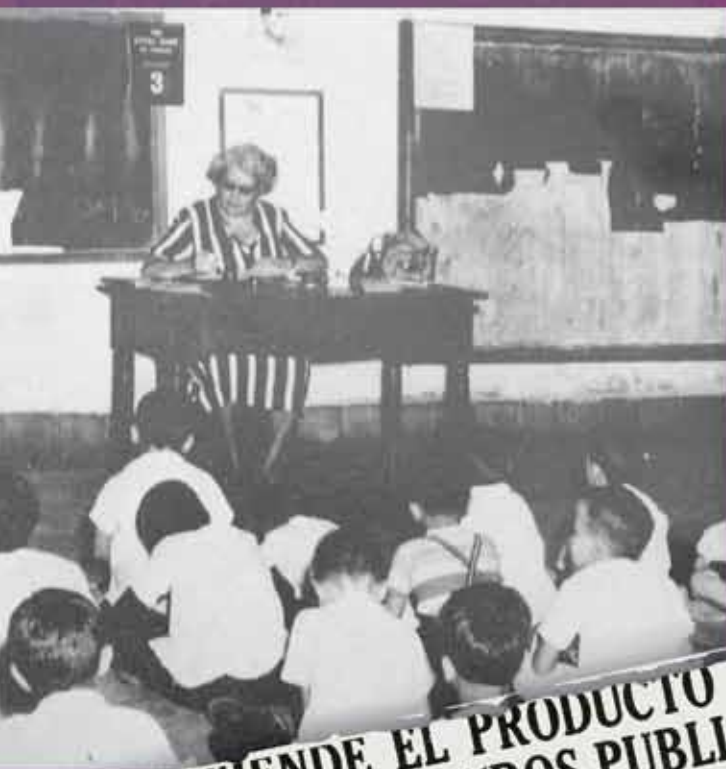
In terms of struggle, when we talk about people... the *thirty thousand* teachers and professors who are so devoted, dedicated and so necessary to a better destiny for future generations and who are so badly treated and ill-paid....

Fidel Castro,
*History Will
Absolve Me*

Secondary school education that only reached half the school-age population; secondary and higher education reserved for a minority, and only in large urban areas.



Only six out of every 100 children enrolled in public school reached the sixth grade.



IONES ASCIENDE EL PRODUCTO DE
DE CAPCNS DE MAESTROS PUBLICOS
azadas de Desahucio por Fo
Escuelas Públicas

ta por el Robo del Dinero
 ido a las Escuelas Públicas

Con el Dinero del Desayuno
Escolar y la Escuela Cubana

Faltan \$110,000.00 para pagar
meses el desayuno escolar

Despilfarra
Educación
los dineros

23.6% of the population over
 10 years old was illiterate.

45% of children 6 to 14 years
 old did not attend school.

EO EN
MOCHE

PRESUPUESTO FASTUOSO Y
ESCUELAS MISERABLES



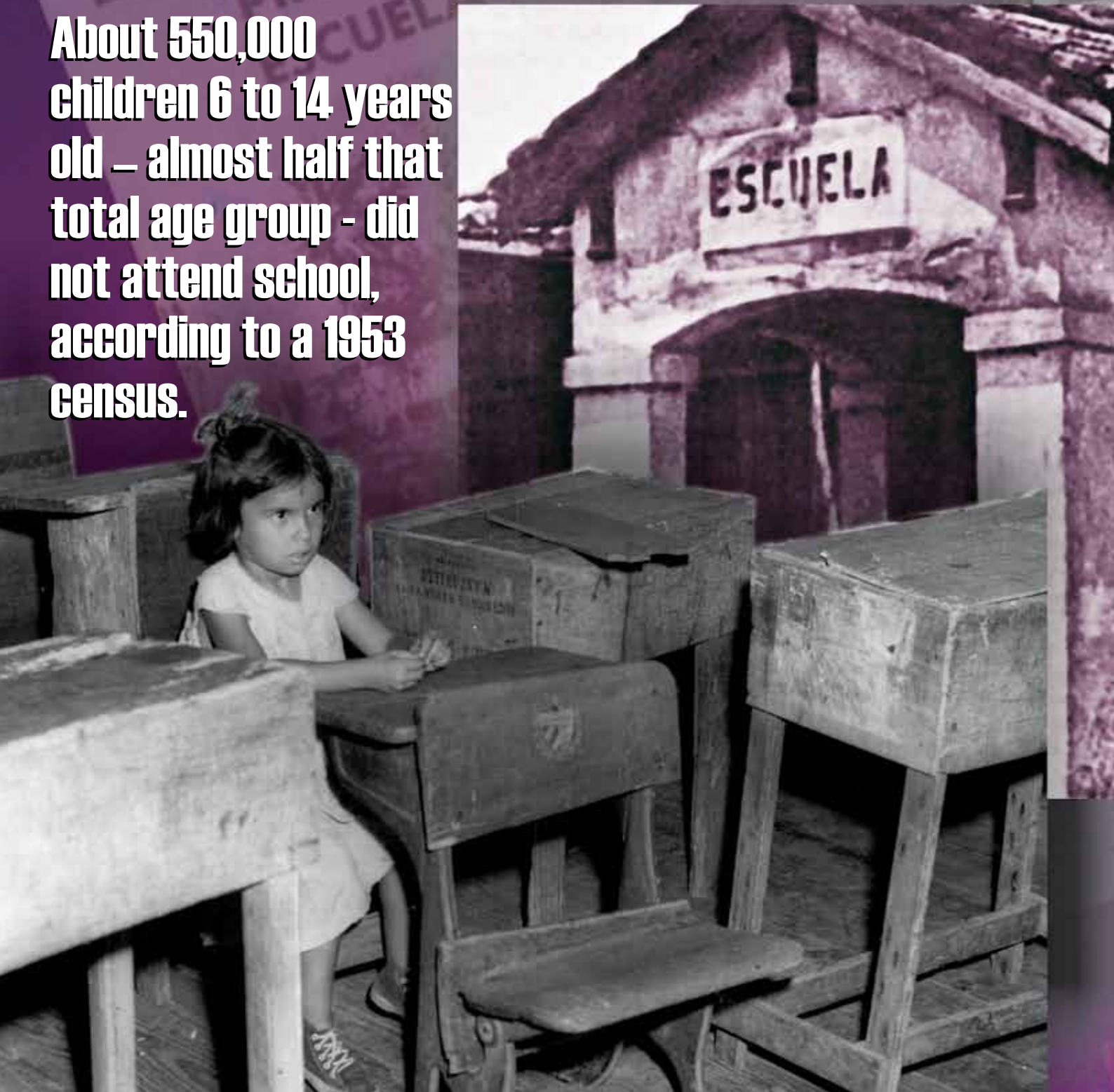
IRONICALLY, MORE THAN 10,000
TEACHERS WERE UNEMPLOYED



The little rural schoolhouses are attended by a mere half of the school age children - barefooted, half-naked and undernourished - and frequently the teacher must buy necessary school materials from his own salary. Is this the way to make a nation great?

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

About 550,000 children 6 to 14 years old – almost half that total age group - did not attend school, according to a 1953 census.





The soul of education, however, is the teacher, and in Cuba the teaching profession is miserably underpaid. Despite this, no one is more dedicated than the Cuban teacher.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



More than half a million children without schools. More than one million illiterate...



WHAT IS INCONCEIVABLE IS THAT 30% OF OUR RURAL POPULATION CANNOT WRITE THEIR NAMES AND THAT 99% OF THEM KNOW NOTHING OF CUBA'S HISTORY.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

**Tens of thousands were
obliged to work to ease
the hunger at home.**

WE FORGET NOTHING





EL MENOR MACHETERO.— Este menor, Félix Nodarse, de 14 años, ya tumba caña. En las cercanías del “Tinguaro” estaba, a las doce del día, muerto de cansancio, echado a la sombra de los árboles. Sentó a los fotógrafos, para no obligarlo a levantarse. Nos dijo: “¡He-

The youngest cane cutter. This minor, Félix Nodarse, 14, already cuts sugar cane. At 12 noon, he was stretched out, dead tired, in the shade of the trees outside the “Tinguaro.” We photographed him sitting down, so he wouldn’t have to get up. He told us: “I’ve been cutting cane since I was ten years old to help my parents, who are very poor. I don’t go to school because I have to work. I don’t have a choice.”

Bohemia magazine

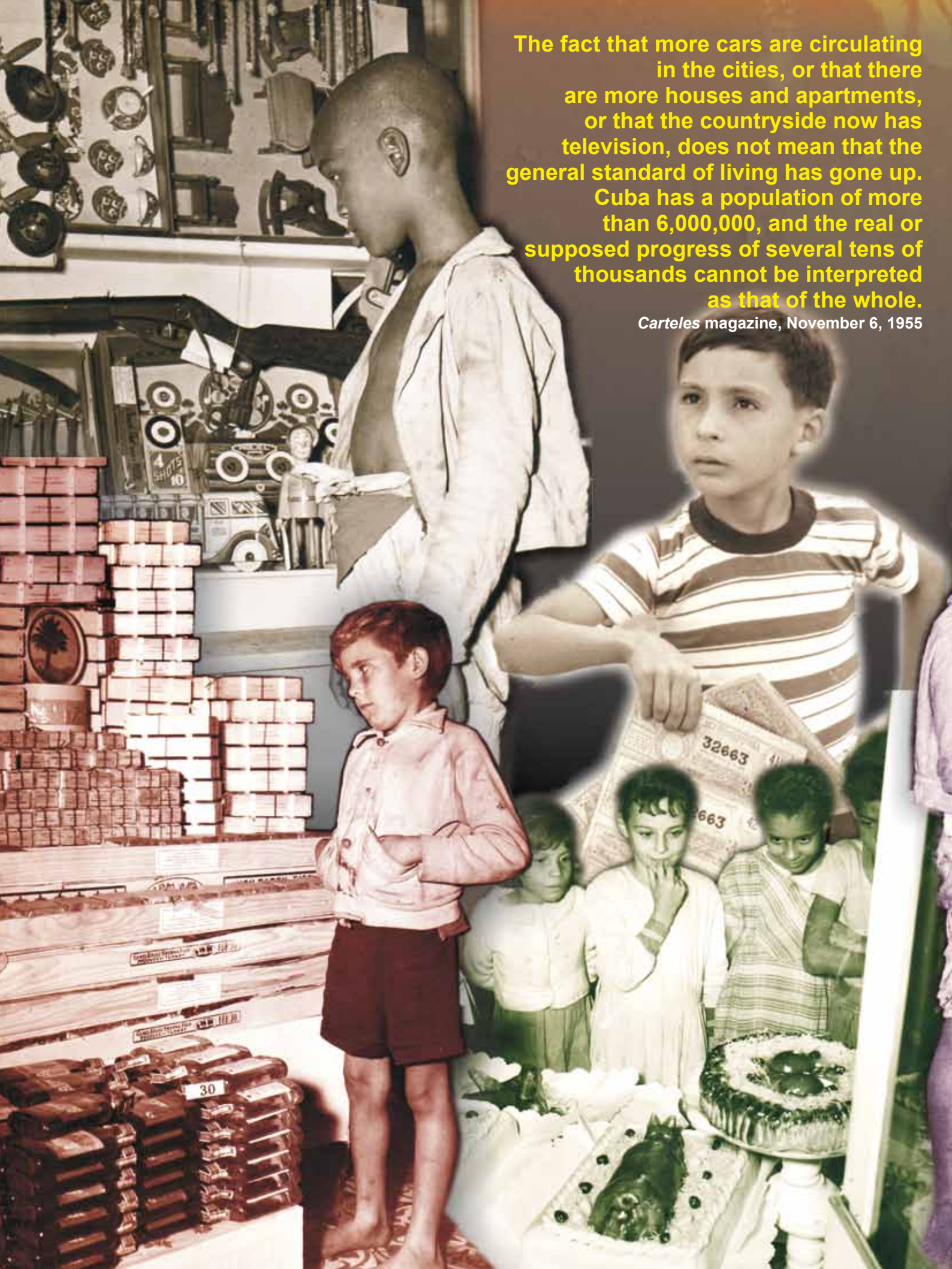
LOTTERY TICKET, MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER SELLERS; SHOESHINE BOYS; IMPROVISED SINGERS AND MARACA PLAYERS ON BUSES; CANE CUTTERS... BEGGARS.

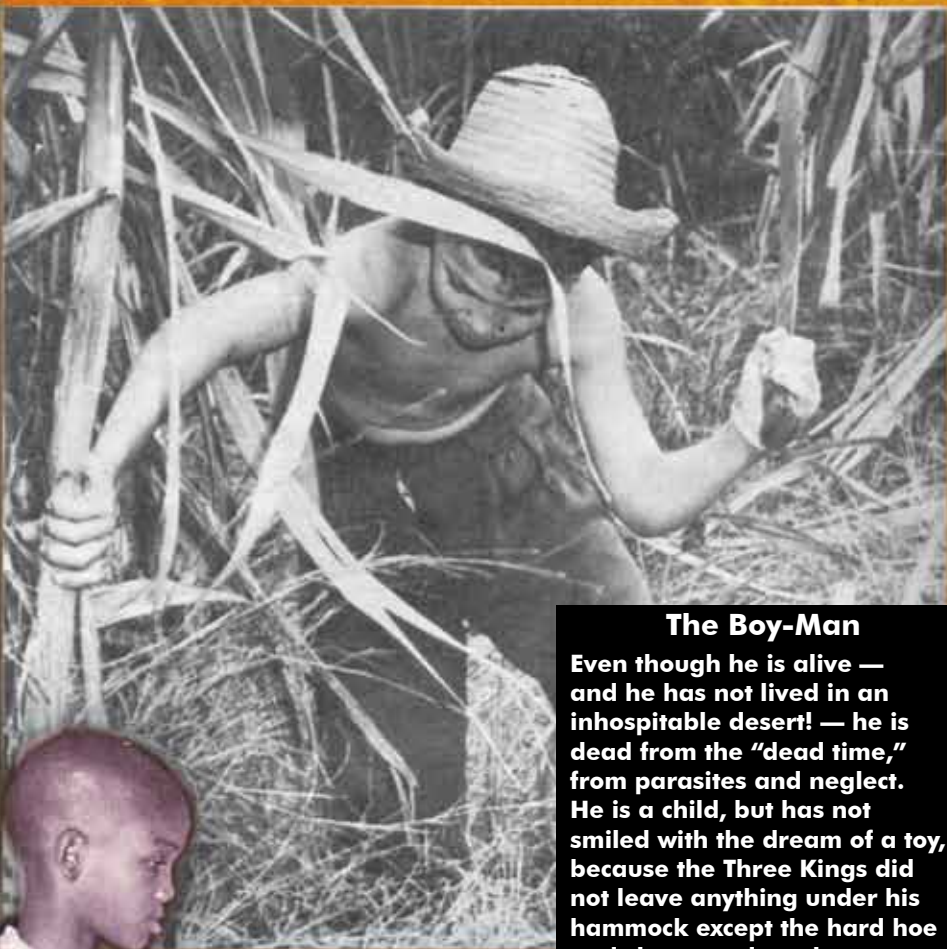
Photos: *Bohemia magazine*



The fact that more cars are circulating in the cities, or that there are more houses and apartments, or that the countryside now has television, does not mean that the general standard of living has gone up. Cuba has a population of more than 6,000,000, and the real or supposed progress of several tens of thousands cannot be interpreted as that of the whole.

Carteles magazine, November 6, 1955





The Boy-Man

Even though he is alive — and he has not lived in an inhospitable desert! — he is dead from the “dead time,” from parasites and neglect. He is a child, but has not smiled with the dream of a toy, because the Three Kings did not leave anything under his hammock except the hard hoe and sharpened machete.



When you try a defendant for robbery, Honorable Judges, do you ask him how long he has been unemployed? Do you ask him how many children he has, which days of the week he ate and which he didn't, do you investigate his social context at all? You just send him to jail without further thought.... You imprison the poor wretch who steals because he is hungry; but none of the hundreds who steal millions from the Government has ever spent a night in jail.

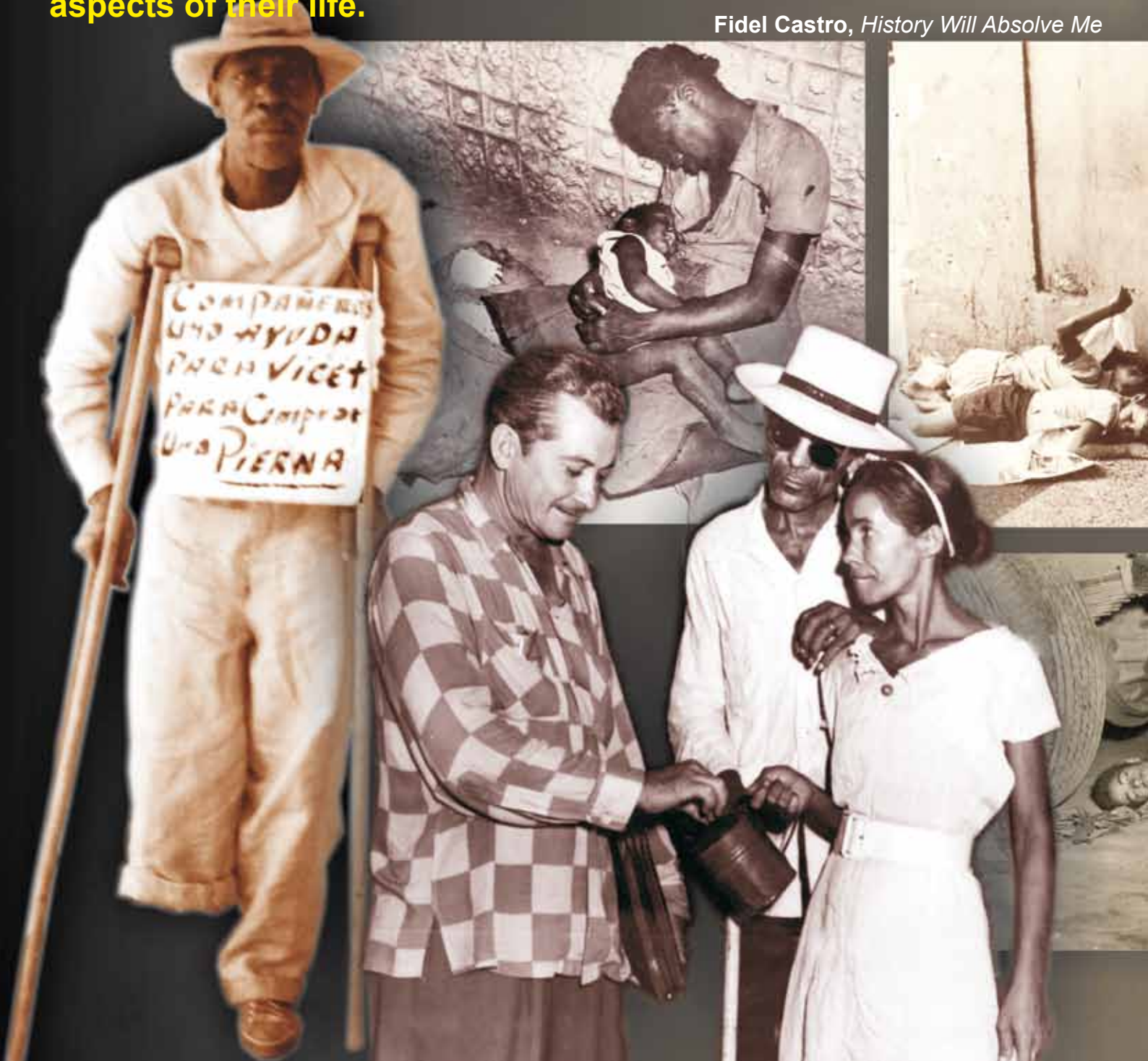
Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION!

When we speak of the people we are not talking about those who live in comfort, the conservative elements of the nation, who welcome any repressive regime, any dictatorship, any despotism, prostrating themselves before the masters of the moment until they grind their foreheads into the ground. When we speak of struggle and we mention the people we mean the vast unredeemed masses, those to whom everyone makes promises and who are deceived by all; we mean the people who yearn for a better, more dignified and more just nation; who are moved by ancestral aspirations to justice, for they have suffered injustice and mockery generation after generation; those who long for great and wise changes in all aspects of their life.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*





Misery slept and died in the doorways, out in the open in the parks,
on sheets over old newspapers.

Bohemia magazine, 1956

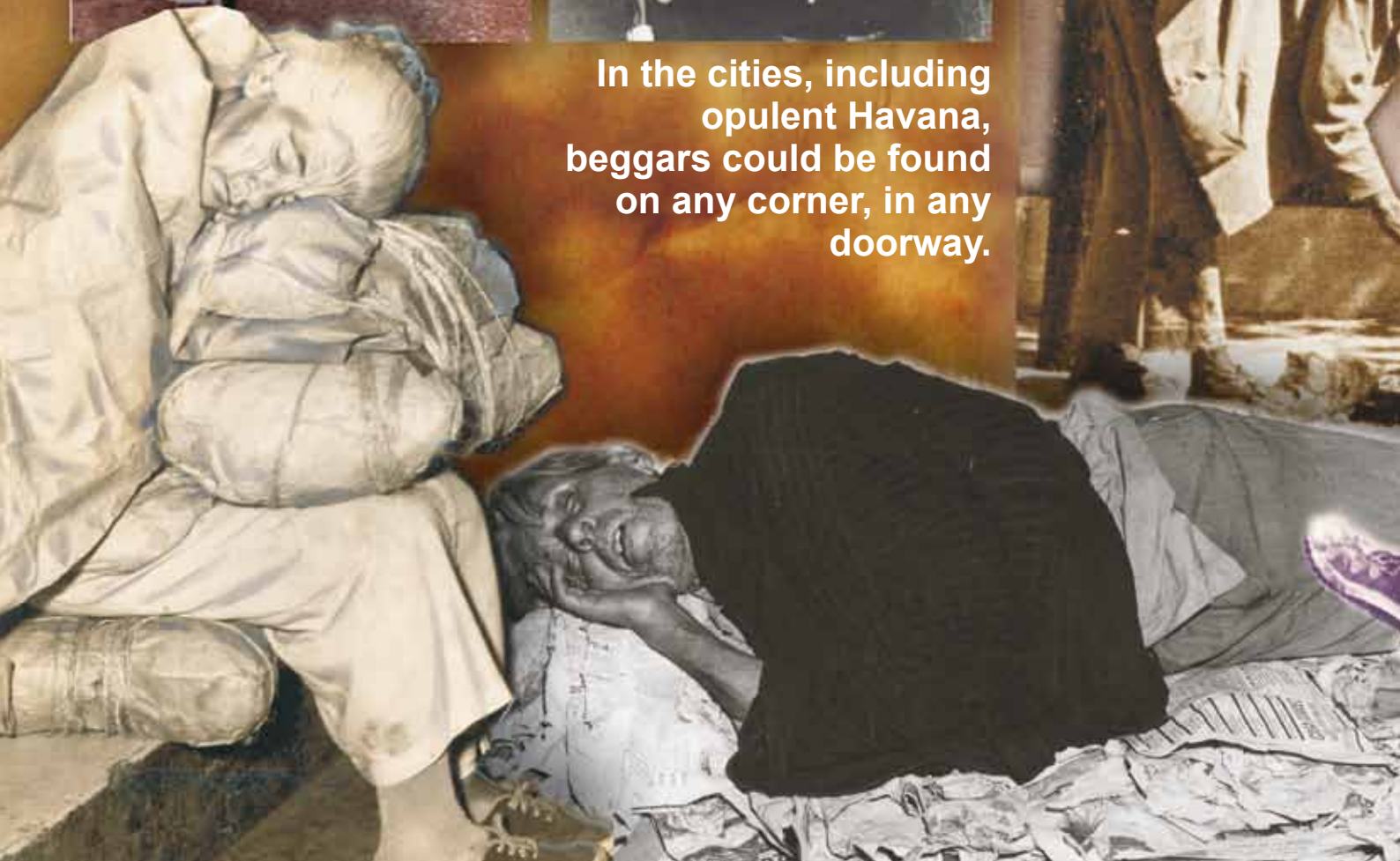
WE FORGET NOTHING

No social assistance system existed

HEALTH INSURANCE NEVER EXISTED AND HEALTH INSTITUTIONS ALWAYS FACED A LARGE BUDGET DEFICIT. THERE ARE CASES OF WORKERS WHO RECEIVED BENEFITS OF SIX PESOS MONTHLY



In the cities, including opulent Havana, beggars could be found on any corner, in any doorway.



During almost seven years of tyrannical rule, the defeated regime eventually controlled more than three billion pesos obtained through tax collections and the issuance of public stock.

IF THOSE THREE BILLION PESOS had been used honestly on a program of economic development, Cuba today would be a country in one of the best positions of growth and prosperity. But those three billion were squandered and stolen through the most corrupt, vandalistic, and irresponsible financial policies in the history of Latin American dictatorships.

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET



- There were 98 hospitals — only one in the countryside — and a system of charity houses that practically provided only first-aid services.
- In 1959, the country had only 2,026 nurses, many of them empirical.
- The price of medicine — there were more than 300 private laboratories — was increasingly too high for the population.



Personas de todas las edades y clases sociales aguardan su turno para que los médicos de la Liga contra la Ceguera les sirvan lo que aún les queda de vista.



Sprawled in a doorway on San Rafael Street, just three doors down from the Ten Cents store, until she died without medical attention; among all of the ideas of José Martí, we have not found one, not one, to express sufficient indignation!

Bohemia magazine, 1958

This chair, which reminds one of a torture seat, is nothing other than the chamber for attending to poisoning cases at the Cerro Charity House.

El día de esta foto, publicada el 2 de mayo de 1952 en la primera plana del periódico HOY, dice: "Se lleva a Juan Hernández, 58 años, al Centro de Rehabilitación de la ciudad. Hace diez días que está allí. Los médicos han hecho esfuerzos, en todos los hospitales para curarlo, y desafortunadamente se lo regresan a la casa. ¿Tendrá que morir en la calle? Todo esto, todo lo malo, bajo el régimen capitalista. Y más despreciable, más bárbaro y peor, es una anestesia para la brutal explotación de clases."

¿No hay cama en los hospitales!



His name is Juan Hernández. He is 58 years old and is dying of tuberculosis on a stretcher in the No. 2 Charity House in Havana. He has been there for ten days. Doctors have made efforts at all the hospitals to get him admitted. And everywhere the answer is the same: "There are no beds." Will this unfortunate man have to die on the ground, in the street?

Hoy newspaper, 1952



Along with an insufficient number of poorly-equipped state institutions and a high degree of neglect, many private, for-profit clinics existed in Cuba.

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION

Baracoa

In 1958, more than one-third of the so-called "labor force" was unemployed or underemployed: about 700,000 Cubans. That same year, a scientific survey showed that 62% of employed Cubans earned less than \$75 monthly, and that the "per capita" income of agricultural workers' families was twenty-five centavos daily. That was the outcome of Batista's "economic and social development plan."

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

**WITHOUT AFFECTING HIS MILLIONS
STOLEN FROM THE NATIONAL
BUDGET AND WITH MUCH FANFARE,
THE DICTATOR GAVE OUT CRUMBS
ON CHRISTMAS**

The president of the Republic and his wife, Mrs. Martha Fernández Miranda de Batista, watching from the north balcony of the Palace as 100 trucks parade past, bringing 400,000 toys donated by them to all the provinces so the children will have a happy Three Kings Day.



Note the quantity of boxes for tens of thousands of families.



Baracoa. greeting cards are being distributed to the poor right on their doorsteps, giving them the right to a Christmas food package donated by General Batista and his wife.

December 22, 1953



El Presidente de la República y su esposa señora Martha Fernández Miranda de Batista presencian desde la terraza norte de Palacio el desfile de los cien camiones que transportan a todas las provincias 400,000 juguetes donados por el general Batista y la Primera Dama a los niños para que celebren alegremente el Día de Reyes.



In January 1959, documents appeared proving that Anselmo Alliegro, president of the Senate, had managed so that Batista approved for him an allocation of 8,000,000 pesos to be invested in the "THE REHABILITATION OF THE FIRST CITY, BARACOA," where that politician was born. According to conservative estimates, only 600,000 of those pesos were spent on the city.

AND THE REST OF THE 8,000,000...?

ELLOS NO TENDRAN NOCHEBUENA

Un Reportaje de Actualidad, Especial Para BOHEMIA.
de J. FERNANDEZ BLANDINO.
fotos de COLLA

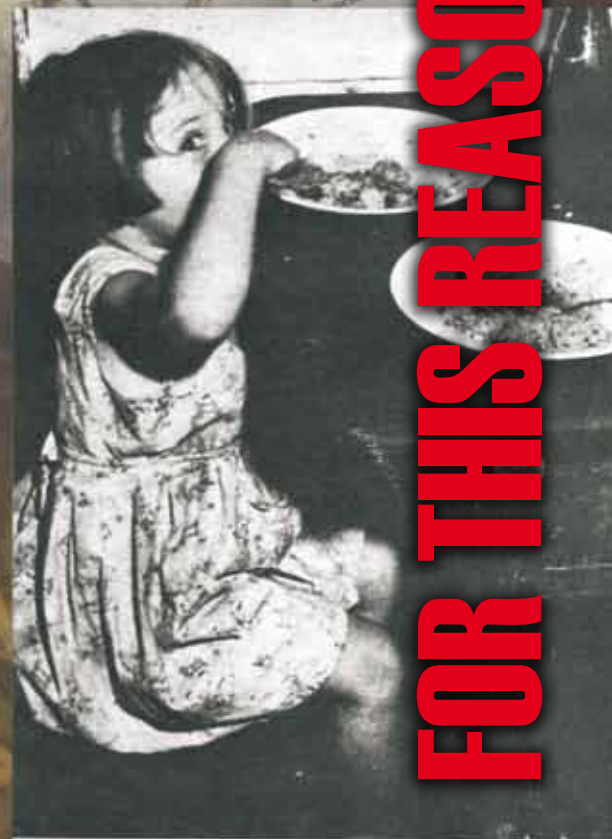
La Navidad es fiesta de amor y humanismo, de cordialidad y fraternidad. Es la ocasión magnífica en que nos sentimos más CIVILIZADOS, más COMPRENSIVOS, más GENEROSOS... Sin embargo, cuadros como éste en el que casi huelga todo comentario, se producen precisamente en víspera de la celebración de la Nochebuena y en plena ciudad de La Habana, iluminada por cientos de lujosas vidrieras colmadas de arbolitos y nacimientos.

La inocencia y el impudor, naturales en la niñez, se reflejan en este "La inocencia y el impudor, naturales en la niñez, se reflejan en este cuadro de la vida cubana por el contraste entre la pobreza y la riqueza."

Berta Izquierdo, what future awaits you? If at the age of three, this little creature has no Christmas dinner other than what is seen in this photo, the question stands. Her life will be a series of misfortunes, unmet needs, and frustrated desires, unless a broad and generous sense of humanity does not replace the prevailing criminal selfishness and end, once and for all, the misery that now reigns over the Cuban countryside.

Bohemia magazine

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION



Berta Izquierdo, ¿qué porvenir te espera? Si a los tres años de edad esta tierna criatura no tiene otra cena de Pascuas que la que capta en esta foto, la pregunta huelga. Su vida será una concatenación de desdichas, de necesidades insatisfechas, de anhelos frustrados, si un sentido de humanidad amplio y generoso no viene a sustituir el egoísmo criminal presente y de cierto se termina de una vez con la miseria que hoy es dueña de los campos de Cuba.

...Public hospitals, which are always full, accept only patients recommended by some powerful politician who, in return, demands the votes of the unfortunate one and his family so that Cuba may continue forever in the same or worse condition...

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

In her Almendares residence, Mrs. Fina Rodríguez de Mirabal held a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the public collection of Friday, February 7, to benefit the League Against Blindness. This photo shows that meeting, and we can see Mrs. Mirabal along with Elda Alex, Elizabeth Pérez de Cobo, María Rodríguez de Aragón, Normanda Pérez, and Martha Proenza.



Without affecting his stolen millions, the dictator donates a few centavos on Hospital Day, and of course there is no lack of publicity surrounding the cynical gesture.

May 13, 1956

HOSPITAL DAY IN CUBA

Thousands of collection boxes were on the streets for alms for the many charity houses on the verge of collapse.



It is under the
guasima tree at this
charity house where
they place bodies
that go unclaimed
until they can be
transferred to the
morgue.

Bohemia magazine, 1955

WE FORGET NOTHING

The generous

And they are generous...

Because they knit sweaters for their dogs.

And they are generous...

Because they give ten centavos to an old lady

In the doorway of a church.

And they are generous...

Because one day they gave a little black boy

Half a sandwich

And asked the waiter

To get him out of the coffee shop.

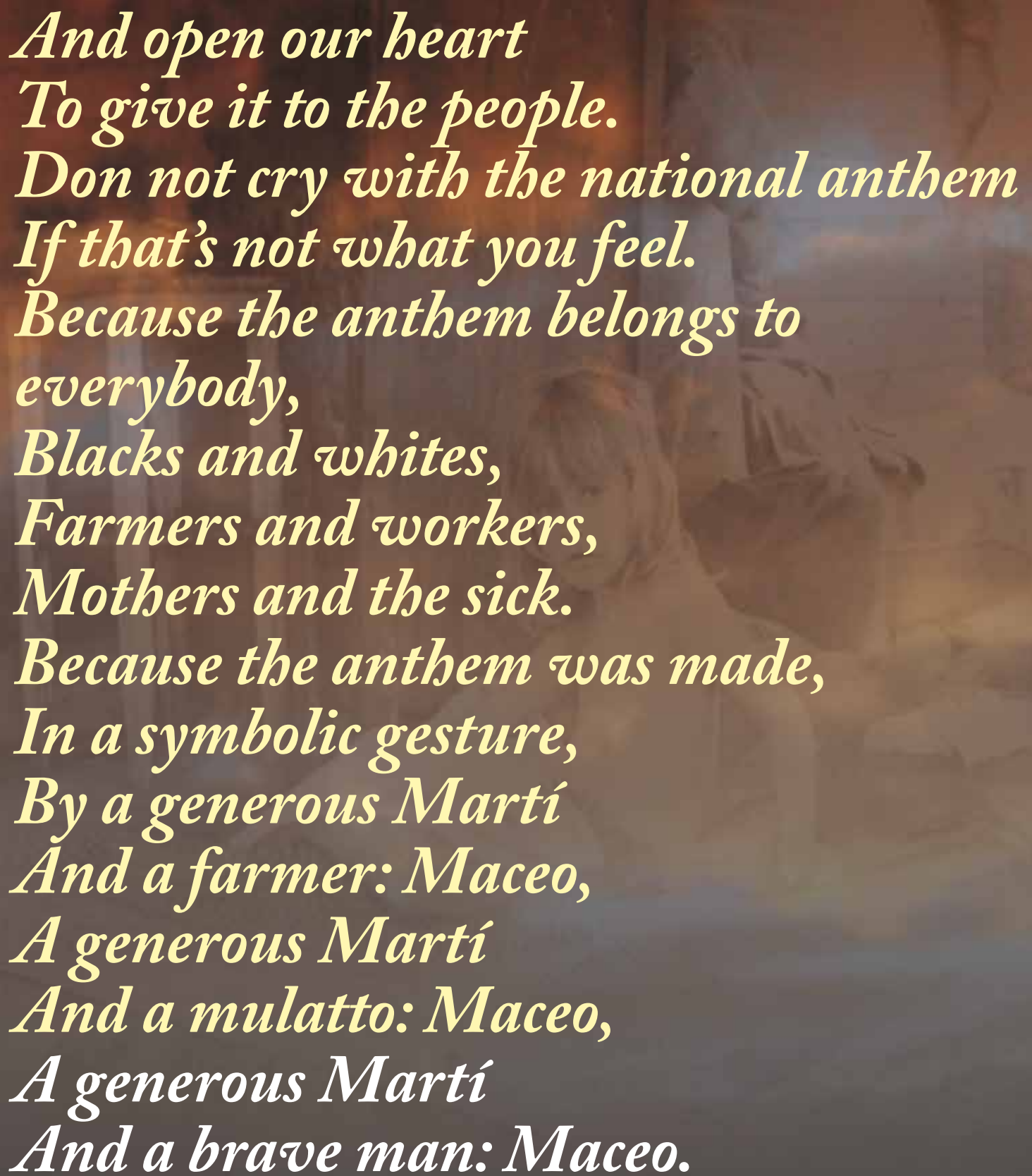
And they are generous...

Because they toss a coin the box

Of the League against Cancer...

*But they forget that cancer
Is more cancerous without clean sheets.
But they forget that cancer
Is more cancerous with hunger.
And they don't know, or don't want to
know,
That cancer is more cancerous
When there aren't any hospitals for the
sick,
Or when there are hospitals
And you have to beg for admittance.
When they have to turn to the
politician of the day
To find a corner to die.
Those who cry with the national
anthem
And are frightened by the Agrarian
Reform.
Those are the generous!*

*The generous who close their eyes
So as not to see the rural woman
With all her children and misery.
The ones who close their eyes
To not see the bohío
Where the cold is colder
And the pain more painful.
Those who have their children in
private school
And forget about others.
The other school, which because it's public
Is more private.
Because being generous
Is not knitting a wool sweater
For your dog,
Or giving ten centavos
In public to an old woman.
It's not that! Not at all!
We must go deeper
To be generous.*



*And open our heart
To give it to the people.
Don not cry with the national anthem
If that's not what you feel.
Because the anthem belongs to
everybody,
Blacks and whites,
Farmers and workers,
Mothers and the sick.
Because the anthem was made,
In a symbolic gesture,
By a generous Martí
And a farmer: Maceo,
A generous Martí
And a mulatto: Maceo,
A generous Martí
And a brave man: Maceo.*

Enrique Núñez Rodríguez

Published in *Bohemia* magazine, May 1959

September 30, 1957

Rights suspended

BEGINNING TODAY, AND FOR THE NEXT 45 DAYS

The presidential measure means, among other things, that if at 10 p.m. you are shot in the face for not hearing a command to "halt!" your relatives have no right to complain, because they simply will receive the official response that "there's nothing to discuss, constitutional rights are suspended." Suspending constitutional rights was a convenient way for the regime to repress with impunity.

Arrests became more frequent.

Raids of homes broke all previous records.

Jails and police stations received more and more refined instruments of torture.



Dumped bodies appeared in growing numbers, in deserted fields, along highways, hanging from trees or simply abandoned, with signs of torture, in public places everywhere, with explosives in their hands. Hundreds were buried without funerals.





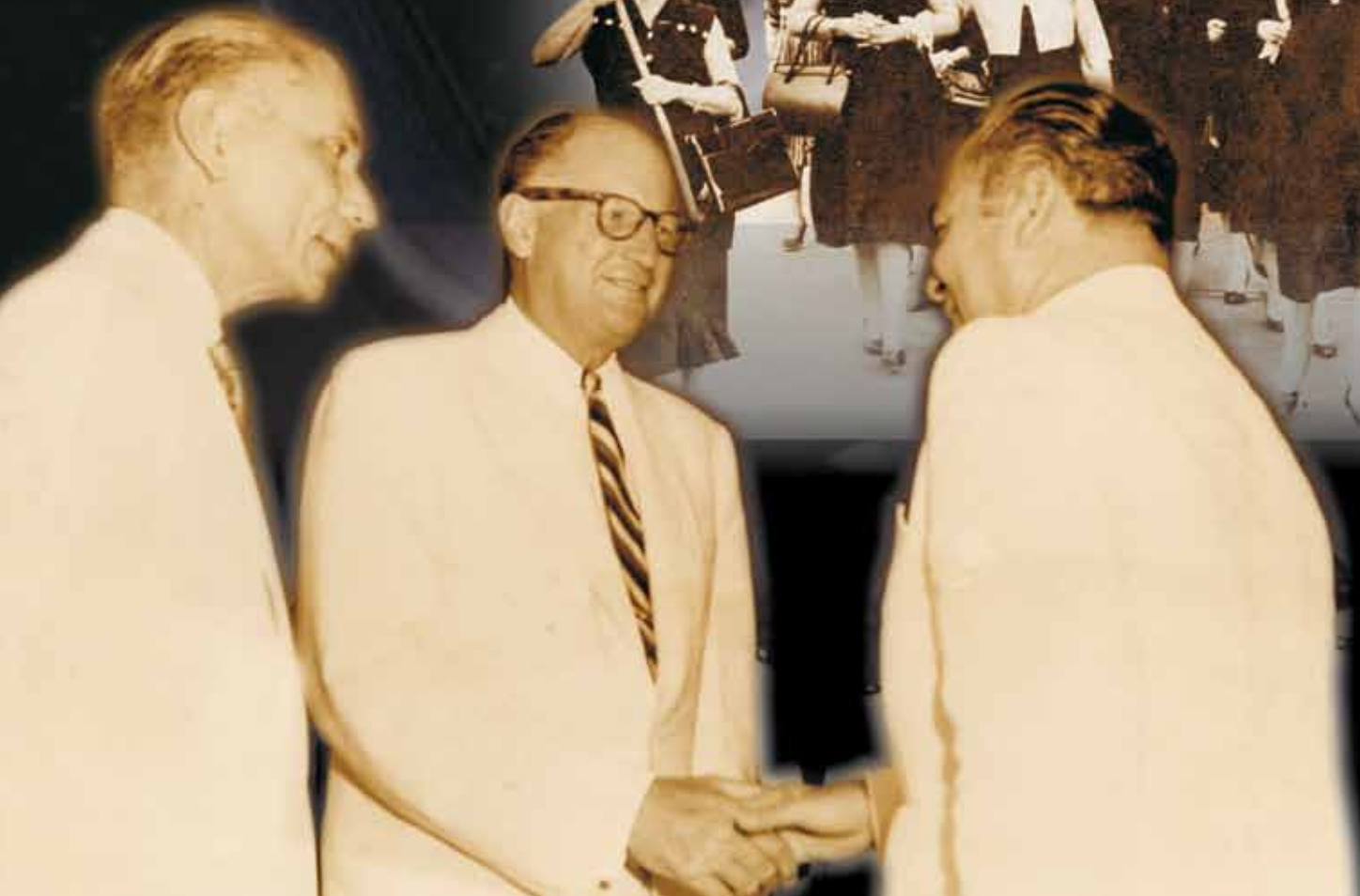
The people of Santiago de Cuba accompany the body of Frank País, vilely murdered by the hired assassins of the dictatorship.



President of the Republic General Batista greets the United States ambassador, His Excellency Earl T. Smith, during a lunch in Military City to celebrate the 4th of September.



Stop the killings of our children
- Cuban mothers



Ambassador Smith: Servant of the despot...and of the empire

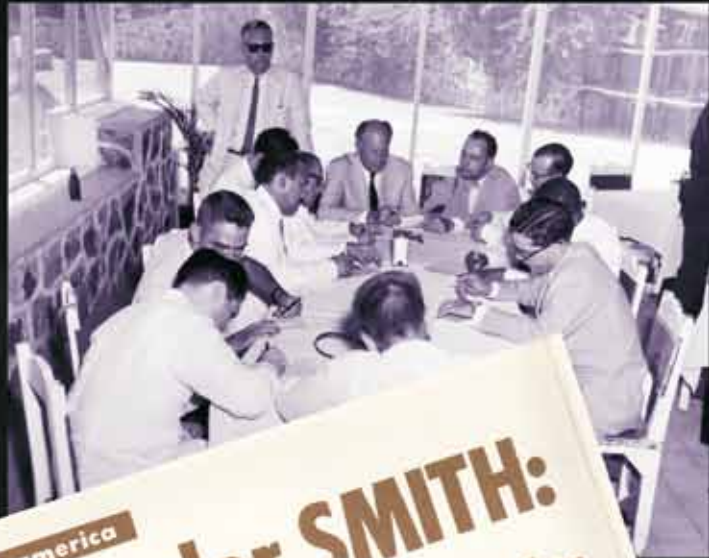
...Committed to the dictatorship, which he wanted to save by any means possible, Smith lent himself to the fabrication of police falsehoods against the July 26th Movement....

...As afraid as the dictatorship of media campaigns in the United States, and with an apparent ignorance of the world's realities, on April 9, 1958, Ambassador Smith invited U.S. reporters to have a cocktail at his house in the Country Club neighborhood with a businessmen. The main subject of conversation: the advantages of the Batista regime for investors.

The CBS cameraman Hoffman, one of the only three journalists who attended the gathering at a moment when there dozens of dead bodies in Havana's streets, later recalled:

"I left embarrassed by those people, and as an American, ashamed of our new ambassador in Cuba."

Bohemia magazine
January 11, 1959



Embajador SMITH: vidor del Déspota



Ambassador Smith: servant of the despot

With his back turned on Cuba's drama.

A party for the ambassador on a day of mourning for Cuba. How he supported the dictatorship's electoral farce.

Homer Bigart, a New York Times journalist, wrote on March 23, 1958: "If present U.S. policy on Cuba continues, the United States will be left with just one friend: the dictator Fulgencio Batista."

The discovery of revealing documents included some that stood out for their significance. In the archives of the SIM, five identification cards appeared, dated 1958, issued to Charles E. Wilson, John J. Wachter, Eltor T. Prather, Albert George Vaughan and David Morales Sánchez. To the surprise of investigators, these agents of the sinister team had listed the U.S. embassy as their address, and the telephone number they provided was FO-3151, precisely the U.S. embassy's private center. That is excellent material for the U.S. congressmen who are so interested in Cuba's affairs, to look into what ties existed between the diplomatic offices on Calzada and the lair of murderers on the Columbia military base.

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

Seen here are President of the Republic Major General Fulgencio Batista and his wife Mrs. Martha Fernández Miranda; Minister Gonzalo Güell and his wife Mrs. Paquita Pubil, and Ambassador Earl T. Smith and his wife Florence Pritchett.

Always laughing uproariously at Cuba's drama, Ambassador Earl T. Smith enjoyed himself without reserve while all of Cuba was sinking in blood and horror.



The United States government

The U.S. government never hid its support for the Batista regime. It shielded itself behind opportunistic neutralism at any mention of the constant violation of human rights by the dictator and his gang. Isolated protests were heard, but never any official expression of condemnation regarding the policy of blood and death entrenched by Batista, the “Beast of Kuquine.”



Colonel Issacson and Batista inspect the explosives unit. The chief of the U.S. military division in Cuba praised the Cuban army's organization.

*Agosto 9 / 1956
Entrega de armas yanquis a la dictadura.
Fotodoc: En respuesta del documento del 8 de agosto de la 1ª División
de Asesoría Militar de la Armada a la dictadura. En la foto, el general
Harold Isaacson, jefe de la División, y el general yanqui en Cuba, se
encuentran en la firma del documento en presencia del teniente general
Batista.*



August 9, 1956

DELIVERY OF YANKI WEAPONS TO THE DICTATORSHIP

Right before the *Granma* landing, the U.S. government made major weapons deliveries to the dictatorship. Here we see Colonel Harold Isaacson, chief of the yanki military presence in Cuba, stamping his signature at the bottom of the document in the presence of the dictator.



nt's support for the dictator



July 2, 1956

In Panama, assembled for the OAS, Latin American presidents, under the aegis of the United States. They include the dictators **FULGENCIO BATISTA, SOMOZA, STROESSNER, PÉREZ JIMÉNEZ AND CASTILLO DE ARMAS.**



November 1956

General Fulgencio Batista inspects warplanes given to the dictatorship by the United States. Here, Batista, the yanki ambassador, and Francisco Tabernilla, chief of the army, as well as other high-ranking officers in the military regime, at the airport of the Cuban armed forces.

The United States government



nt's support for the dictator



Nuevos automóviles para la Sección Radio Matanzas adquiridos por el Brigadier General Fernando Hueland. Jefe de la Policía Nacional, cuando se encontraban alineados frente al Palacio de la Presidencia para ser inspeccionados.

In correct formation, the thirty-five new patrol cars recently acquired by the National Police to patrol our city paraded in front of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar.



The military aid did not end. A slight suspension in the arms supply occurred after modern weaponry had been provided for years.



On July 26, 1958, five years after the attack on the Moncada, the body of this young man appeared at Reyes and Luyanó streets, riddled with bullets.

The second young man identified was José de la Luz Díaz Ruiz, head of sales for the Anderson Trading Company, and his body was found inside a car on Segarra Street, between 10 de Octubre and Jovito, with an explosive device seized.

October

October 29: In the shootout at the Haitian Embassy, ten young men were killed.

The dead were: Secundino Martínez and Gregorio García Borundena, accused of trying to kill Rolando Masferrer; Eduardo Cid Crespo, Orlando Fernández Farroy, Leonel Cabrera Mendoza, Felipe Hernández Concepción, Carlos M. Casanovas, Salvador Ibáñez Ibáñez, Israel Escalona Ledesma and Alfredo Masssip Masiques.

December

December 26: In Puerto Padre, Héctor Infante Pérez, Alejo Tomás Clemente, Antonio Concepción Perodín and José Marcial Pérez Cruz were shot to death.

In Mayarí, the bullet-riddled bodies were found of Enrique Morgan, Silverio Hernández and Loynaz Echevarría Cordovés. In Holguín, Pedro Díaz, José Mendoza García, Isaac Hernández Olivera, Luis Peña and Alcides Aguilera were all shot to death. In Jobabo, Enrique Casals was shot to death. In Cacocum, Jesús Feliú Leyva and Gilberto González Rojas. In Banes, Elmo Esperance. In Preston, Armando Guzmán Guidy.

1957

January

January 1: In a northern Santiago de Cuba trial court, three bodies were identified after they were found in that city on the night of December 20.

The first was Alejandro de Dios Soto, 20 years old, nephew of Doctor Luisa Soto del Rey, Mr. Roberto Soto del Rey, and Doctor Humberto Soto del Rey, a teacher at the Secondary Learning Institute in that city.

It was reported that on the road from Manicaragua to Santa Clara, the bodies of carpenter Constantino Pérez, 57, and Eladio Rodríguez Peña were found. Neighbors said they heard voices saying, "Murderers, don't kill us."

January 2: On the road from Santiago de Cuba to Ciudadmar, the bodies were found of Froilán Guerra Blanco, 20, who lived at 310 Banderas, and minor William Soler Ledes, 15, who according to relatives had been arrested together with his friend De Dios Soto, who was found shot to death days earlier.

In the Galley 2 of the Santiago de Cuba bivouac, Alfredo Reyes Rodríguez, 32, was found after being hung to death. He had been accused of subversive propaganda.

On the corner of 72nd and Mar in the Miramar district, a 65-year-old man was found shot in the head, and with various other bodily injuries.

Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar

Chief proprietor of the Antillana hotel company, a planned hotel with 650 to 700 rooms at a cost of \$25 million, to be built in Martí Park between G and H streets and the Malecón and Calzada, in El Vedado, Havana.

Owner of the Territorial Playa Francés tourism company, part of the Compañía de Fomento y Turismo de Trinidad S.A., of the Gerona Beach Territorial S.A., of the Compañía Urbanizadora Varadero S.A.

He was the owner of Compañía de Parquímetros Cubanos S.A., a parking-meter importer in Havana, one of Batista's most scandalous businesses.

To hide his involvement in such an incredible number of companies, as many as 70, he had an extensive web of straw men, intermediaries, accomplices, associates and lawyers, led by Andrés Domingo Morales del Castillo, his minister of the presidency, and Manuel Pérez Benitoa, the uncle of his former son-in-law, Antonio Pérez Benitoa Fernández, divorced from his daughter, Mirta Batista Godínez...

READERS SHOULD NOTE THE COSTS AND THEN, IF THEY LIKE, GO SEE THE PROJECTS, TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES IF THE CEMENT AND ASPHALT WERE CEMENT AND ASPHALT AND NOT POWDERED GOLD.

The largest fortunes created through the administrative corruption were made, in effect, during the Batista regime.

Virgen del Camino to San Francisco de Paula \$7 million.

Lengthening of the Malecón seawall (less than 2 kilometers) \$6.2 million.

Two-way road in Reparto Miramar \$ 6.4 million.

Termination of the Columbia Military Airport \$3.9 million.

FINANCIAL VANDALISM IN POWER

THE COST OF THE LAVISH PUBLIC WORKS WITH WHICH CUBA WAS MORTGAGED FOR 30 YEARS.

ESTAS son algunas muestras, sin apenas seleccionar, de las obras públicas realizadas por la Dictadura a costa de la Deuda Pública y con el pretexto de un supuesto "Plan de Desarrollo Económico y Social". Las cifras corresponden a los fondos situados hasta el 30 de junio de 1957, es decir, que los presupuestos originales luego definitivamente gastados son mucho más altos. Fíjese el lector en los costos y si lo desea vaya luego a ver las obras, para que compruebe que el cemento y el asfalto eran cemento y asfalto y no oro molido. Las más grandes fortunas permitidas por la venalidad administrativa se hicieron, en efecto, durante el régimen de Batista.

FONDOS SITUADOS PARA ALGUNAS OBRAS PUBLICAS HASTA 30 DE JUNIO DE 1957

Carreteras:	Miliones \$
"Gran Boulevard" de Barandilla a Arroyo Arenas ..	4.6
Virgen del Camino a San Francisco de Paula	7.0
Camino de Barandilla al Aeropuerto General Batista	6.3
Vía Blanca (Plaza del Este) al Cotorro	6.0
Calles y Avenidas:	
Ampliación del Malecón (menos de 2 kilómetros) ..	6.2
Doble Vía en el Reparto Miramar	6.4
Ampliación de la Quinta Avenida, en Miramar	4.5
Embellecimiento y reconstrucción de Carlos III	2.2

He probably had a strong interest in the Compañía Constructora del Litoral S.A. and in the Mercantil del Puerto de La Habana S.A., both of which benefited greatly from government contracts and financing from BANDES. The Compañía Constructora del Litoral S.A. was a contractor with offices at 108 O'Reilly....

All public works contracts were personally awarded by Batista, and he charged a commission of approximately 35% of the total value of a contract.

Sumptuous works in the capital were built with state money to provide a false image of prosperity and steal millions, while the great majority lived in the most abject poverty.



[illegible]

En el Dr. Desamparado Giron de Padilla, un reconocido Psiquiatra de la Asociación de Santiago de Chile, de que la Política no le afecta la relación o influencia no existe con las materias oscurecidas, así como tampoco ha estado a los cuidados de los enfermos, sino que simplemente se las vacía.

Enferm. 12.—Trasquilado de un año, me encuentro en un buen estado, pero la persistencia del cuadro (Cintenta Puntos en Química Clínica).



Paulino Botiçon Ferraz, asilado por su valentía en las mayores batallas en la Guerra Mundial, regresando a Cuba para trabajar en la construcción de la Escuela de Derecho de la Universidad de La Habana. Una vez más fue caído de su casa, aparentemente después de haber sido herido en la Escuela Normal, con una bomba colocada en el patio.

[illegible]

Febrero 25. — En la Nueva Fama, se reunió en las conferencias de la Nueva Maestría. Se dio lectura a los dos por uno elaborados por el señor Alfonso, Pablo, Plácido y Ana Rosa Urbina Jarama.

Marta, 1.º. — Foi casada de José Maria Martins Rodrigues, de 1860, de São Paulo, ex-gerente do Sítio do Monte do Carmo, filho de Silveira, Medeiros, Falcão, Caramelo, e de Maria do Carmo, filha de Henrique de Almeida, português, e de Maria, de 1860, em 1.º casamento de 28 de dezembro de 1900, em la cartoria de João de Jesus.

Al capitalista se le muestra una estatua de Simón Bolívar, rodeada de la plaza, saliendo garibayistas heridos por el cañonazo al norte de la 12 línea. Luis González Martí, vecino de Arica se lamenta: «¡Ah!»

[illegible]

MAYO

Mayo 8. Día de la Virgen Fátima, en el Cuzco. Por este motivo se organiza una gran misa en la Catedral de la ciudad. El presidente Juan Castillo da el 22 años de gobierno a la Primera Compañía de San José de la Virgen que se organiza en la ciudad. Este aniversario se celebra en la ciudad.

Atoré 13 — **Manuel Simón**, de 21 años, residente que vive en La Candelaria 372, Guatemalpeten, fue aprehendido y llevado a la línea de control del Arma, por familiares involucrados que había sido falsario de

[illegible]

Wrote 10.—Cerra de la estacion de
camara en Fernando Aguilar en
Pinar del Rio, viajando en el
de una casa, tambien me
gusto a un momento.

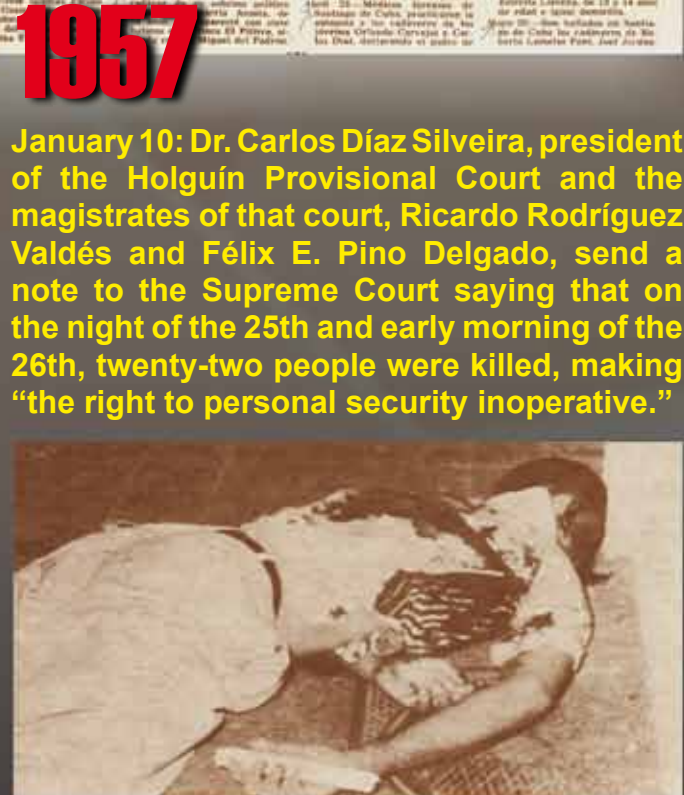
El 20 de mayo, el presidente de la Policía en el departamento del Huila, don Humberto L. Torres, anunció a través del presidente de la FED, Francisco Rodríguez, Juan Pablo García Sierra, mediante carta que él era el autor del atentado al ex-

Wage 22 — En grandes dimensions a tres pelotines de La H. bas, excavations (estranas) de la Llerena Arriba, de 28 años.

Enrique Guerra, de 13 e 14 anos, no alto e logo abaixo.



Another hanging victim found on Avenida del Río, in Alturas de Vedado. The body of Salvador Sánchez Céspedes showed signs of brutal torture.



This young man was found dead across the street from the Marianela Bar on San José at the corner of Lucena. After shooting him to death, his murderers placed the now-routine dynamite stick in his hand.



Porfirio Estévez Ferra was highly decorated for his courage in the World War, and after returning to Cuba worked in the cantina at the University of Havana Law School. Early one morning he was pulled out of his house, and was later found dead in the Escuela Normal with four gunshot wounds and a bomb placed on his chest.

March

March 9: On the road from Puerto Padre to Delicias, 19-year-old Juan Mora Artimes of 39 Maine Street was found hung to death.

March 14: Early in the morning, the body of Dr. Pelayo Cuervo Navarro was found in the Country Club district with eight gunshot wounds. The victim was one of Cuba's most outstanding political figures.

On the corner of 48th and Avenida del Río, Almendares suburb, Salvador Sánchez Céspedes, 37, was found hung to death. He was wearing olive-colored pants, a white shirt and low-cut black shoes.

March 18: Mrs. Petrona Gálvez of Pinar del Río asked for the body of her nephew-in-law Enrique Echevarría Acosta, 26, after he was found with seven gunshot wounds on the El Pitirre farm in San Miguel de Padrón. Echevarría Acosta had been missing since the 11th.

April

April 16: Exhumation is ordered for the body of José Méndez García, who was found hung to death on December 26 in San Andrés, Holguín, after his widow said his skull had been bashed in and there were injuries all over his body.

April 20: After being discovered by the police in apartment 201 of 7 Humbolt, the FEU president Fructuoso Rodríguez, Juan Pedro Carbó Serviá — accused of being one of the perpetrators of the attempt to assassinate Colonel Blanco Rio — and students José Machado Rodríguez and José (Joe) Westbrook Rosales were all shot to death.

April 23: Forensic doctors in Santiago de Cuba, performing autopsies on the bodies of the young men Orlando Carvajal and Carlos Díaz, after the father of the latter said his son had just one bullet wound in the Emergency Hospital, from which he was taken against the will of his doctor, Dr. Garzón.

April 29: The naked body of a man with several blows to the head and a gunshot wound in the right lumbar area was found floating two miles from the beach.

May

May 20: The bodies of Roberto Lamelas Font, Joel Jordán, Orlando Fernández Badell and Salvador Rosales Clavijo are found in Santiago de Cuba with numerous gunshot wounds.

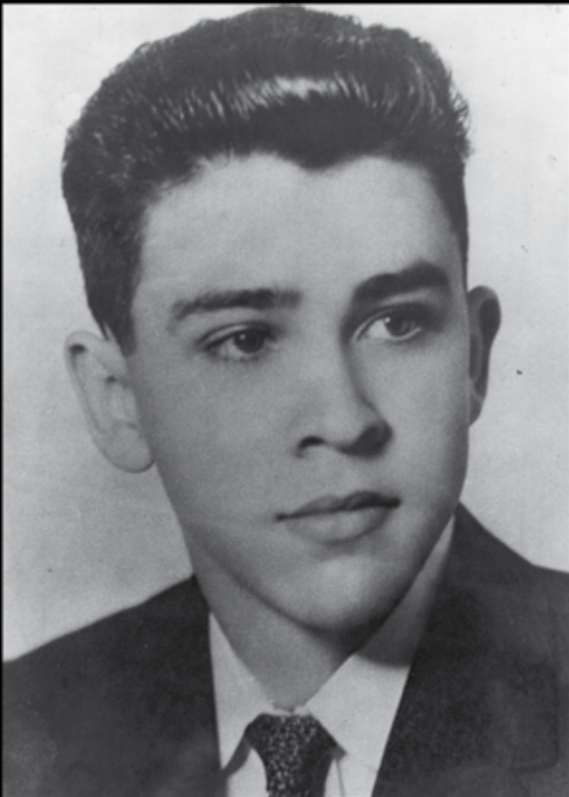
Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION



This is one of the few photos in which members of the Saíz y Montes de Oca family appear all together. From left to right, Sergio, the younger son; Ester Montes de Oca, the mother; Dr. Luis R. Saíz Delgado, the father, and Luis, the older son.

The MARTYRS of SAN JUAN and MARTÍNEZ



Sergio Saíz Montes de Oca. One year younger than his brother Luis. A poet of exquisite sensitivity, he prophesied their death of in one of his poems: "Bodies embracing the cement of a street, and a star...."



Luis Saíz Montes de Oca. A highly developed intellectual, despite his youth. He led the July 26th Movement's actions at San Juan and Martínez and died courageously with his brother Sergio when he tried to defend him; their deaths were one of the most abominable crimes of the dictatorship.

It is Tuesday, August 13, 1957. The superstitious coincidence of the date has nothing to do with the valiant spirit of the brothers Luis and Sergio Saíz Montes de Oca.

Kill me, not my brother!

At the corner of the theater, Sergio goes ahead while Luis remains in the doorway of the store nearby, greeting some friends.

Behind the columns of the doorway next to the theater, the miserable murderers Margarito Díaz and Pablo Zayas are crouched down. Margarito is the more determined one. Blackjack in hand, despite his civilian clothing, he intercepts Sergio.

"Where are you going, kid?" he asks.

Serene, the younger Saíz answers:

"To the movies. Interested?"

The henchman takes the ironic question as a challenge.

"You trying to be funny? You'll see," he says in a threatening tone.

He tucks the blackjack under his arm and with both hands tries to pat down Sergio. The young man resists, and breaks out of the embrace with a strong push. In rapid succession, Margarito takes the blackjack and slams it against the young man's face, leaving a long red mark.

"Coward!"

The retort is enough for the provocateur to speed things up.

He pulls the .45 pistol out of his waistband and points it at Sergio.

From the doorway of the store, Luis has become conscious of what is happening.

"Murderer! Kill me, not my brother!" Luis yells, as he lunges toward Margarito.

The murderer turns and demonstrates his aim; the bullet goes right through the the older brother's heart. Perplexed and devastated, Sergio tries to go toward his brother.

Another well-aimed bullet stops him in his tracks. The bullet has gone through the hand he raised in a futile gesture of defense and rips open his aorta.



This is where Luis and Sergio Saíz Montes de Oca were vilely assassinated. Luis was in the doorway of the store (No. 1) when he noticed that his brother Sergio was being threatened with a gun by the soldier Margarito Díaz in the spot where the young people in the photo are standing (No.2). He moved toward them to defend his brother and received a shot right in the chest, piercing his heart. Stumbling, he took several steps until he fell, lifeless, in the spot marked No. 3.



This was the reversible jacket that Sergio Saiz would use when he held his lightning rallies at San Juan and Martínez. On his buddy's shoulders, Juan Manuel Rivero would improvise a speech and address the public. When the police arrived, they would search for the "boy with the green jacket." But by then Sergio had turned his jacket inside out, and it was brown. That's how he avoided being caught by the henchmen.

A BRAVE LETTER FROM RAÚL ROA

A few days after the brutal murder of the Saiz brothers, Doctor Raúl Roa wrote this brave letter to their father, a university classmate:

Havana, August 17, 1957

"Doctor Luis Saiz y Delgado.

My dear friend and compañero:

I write to you shaken with rage and pain. Rage, yes, out of my impotence in face of the forces that rule disguised as authority, relentlessly cutting short lives in their prime; pain — profound, deep pain — at that brutal destruction suffered by a father and a mother whom I hold in such esteem. The tragic deaths of Luis and Sergio show, in a terrible way, how far we have regressed into barbarism. I cannot, nor could I ever, advise you to be resigned. I cannot, nor could I ever, offer you any consolation. Resignation and consolation are vain rhetoric at a moment like this. Suffice it for me to say to you that as a father, I feel your desolation as my own, and as a father, all I can hope for is that the day will soon come when the innocent blood of your sons — generous seed — no longer demands justice and radiates a serene light in our memories. Circumstances have made them into a symbol, and they will go down in history as martyrs. It is not for nothing that the entire country's consciousness has risen up against such an abominable crime, breaking the silence of fear in which we are immersed.

My wife wants me to express her complete identification in this moment full of tribulation. And receive, along with your wife, a warm embrace of condolence and friendship from

Raúl Roa."

THE MURDERERS

Margarito Díaz, perpetrator, fugitive.

Colonel Evelio Miranda, fugitive.

Captain Oscar Pedraja, fugitive.

Pablo Antonio Zayas, accomplice, sentenced to 30 years.

Lieutenant Armando Noda, accomplice, sentenced to 10 years.

SONG TO DEATH

(Excerpt)

Death! Why do you flee me?
Why is it every time your body I
implore
you move away, as if out of fright?
I want to talk to you! Stop! It's you
I desire!
You pass by my side wrapped up
in a sigh;
the way an evil man does
after committing a crime.

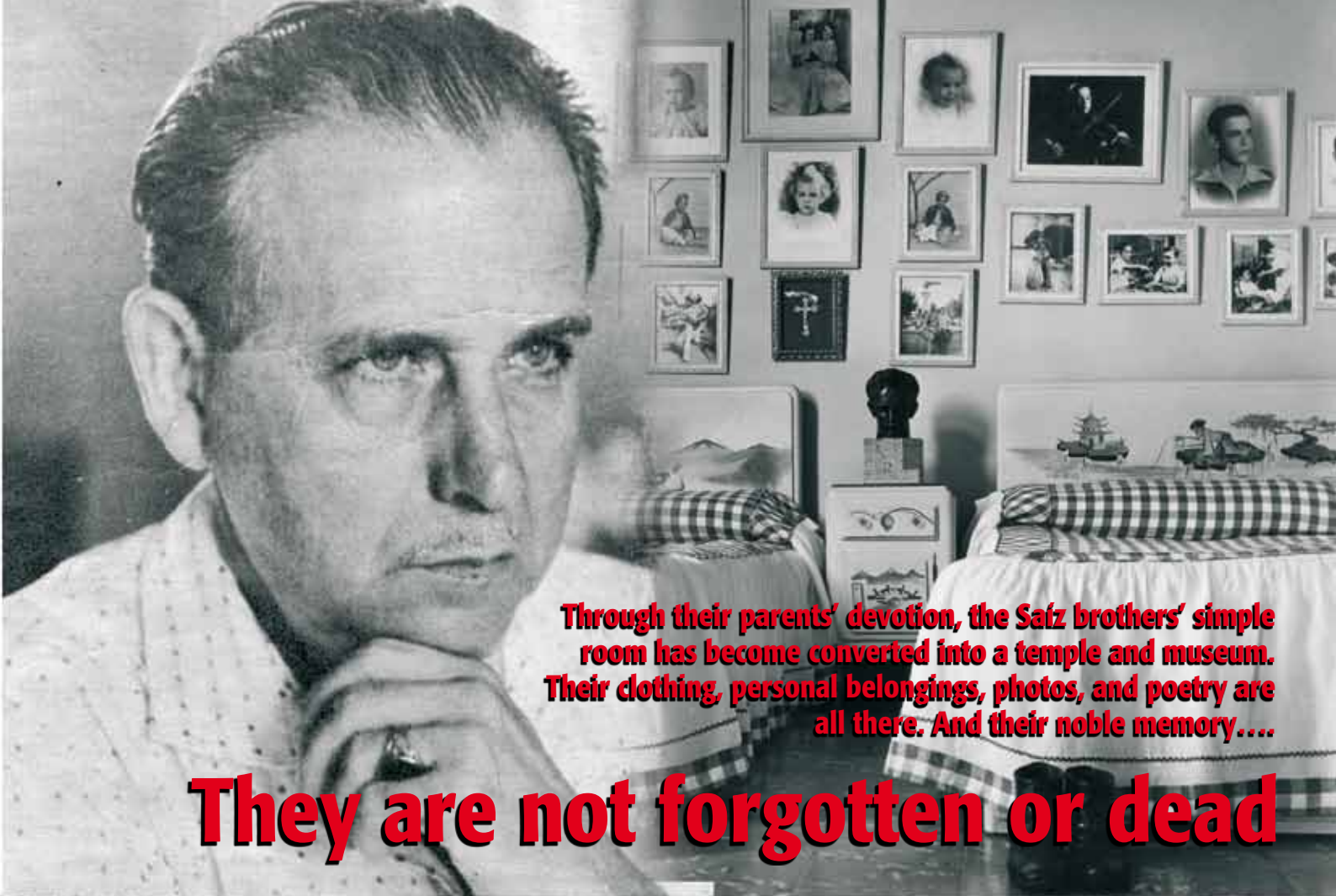
Sergio Saiz
May 29, 1957

BODIES THAT LIE SLEEPING

Bodies that lie sleeping,
embracing the cement
of a street, and a star.
Palm trees that touch the clouds
asking the sky to look down.
As Cuba, destroyed,
envisions her dawn
the light begins to shine forth
from a mountain's peaks!

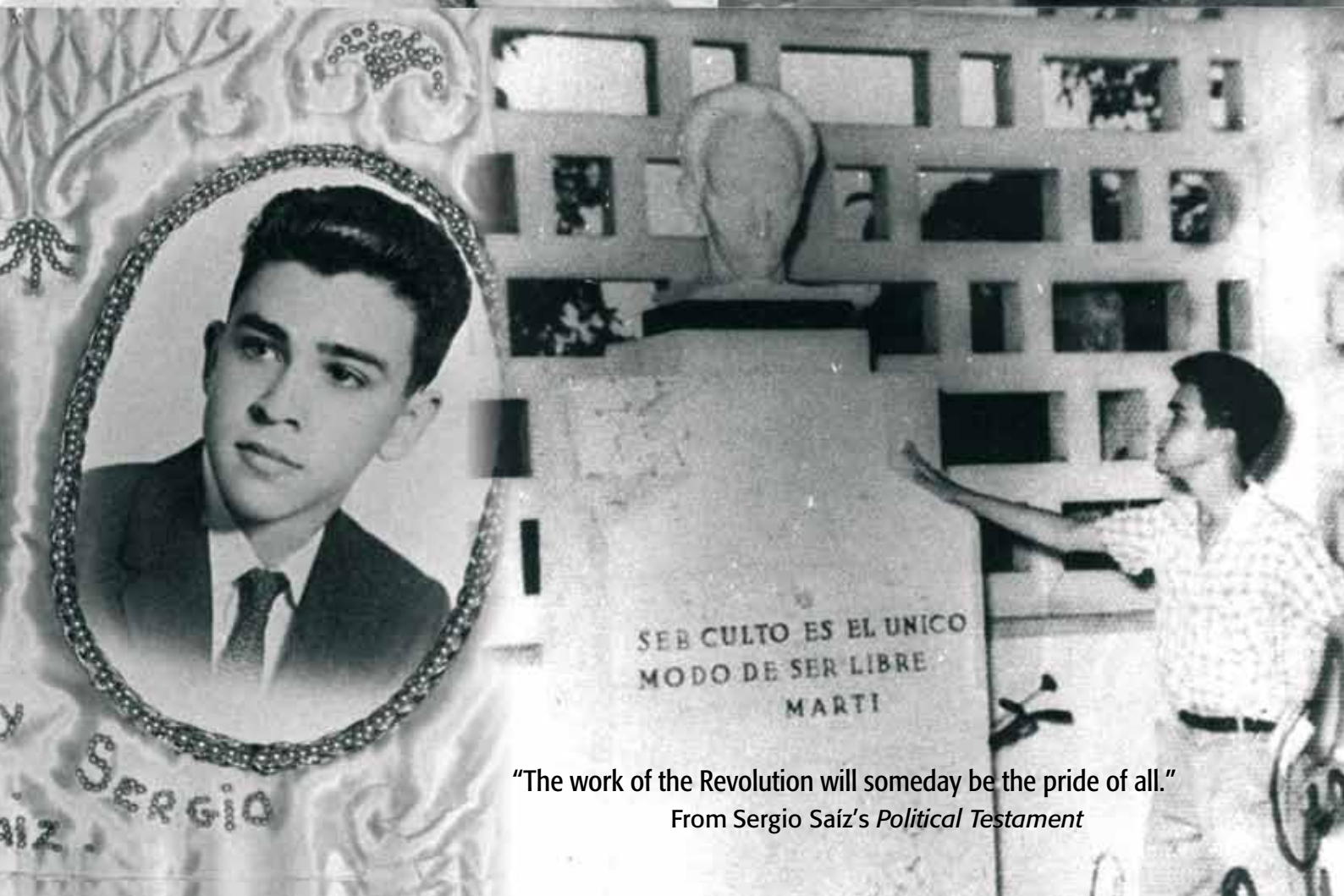
Sergio Saiz





Through their parents' devotion, the Saiz brothers' simple room has become converted into a temple and museum. Their clothing, personal belongings, photos, and poetry are all there. And their noble memory....

They are not forgotten or dead



"The work of the Revolution will someday be the pride of all."

From Sergio Saiz's Political Testament

THE TRAGIC OUTCOME OF THE BATISTA REGIME



Ernesto Fernández Batelli y sus hijos. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa.

Ernesto Fernández Batelli y sus hijos. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa.

Ernesto Fernández Batelli y sus hijos. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa. Batelli es el hijo mayor de Batelli y su esposa.

JUNIO

June 1.-En la ciudad de La Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 2.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 3.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 4.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

JUNIO

June 5.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 6.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 7.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 8.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

JUNIO

June 9.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 10.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 11.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 12.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

JUNIO

June 13.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 14.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 15.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 16.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

JUNIO

June 17.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

June 18.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

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June 24.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

JUNIO

June 25.-En el Hospital Militar de la Habana, se celebró una reunión en la que se discutió el futuro del país. Se acordó que se debía de hacer un cambio radical en el sistema político.

May

May 30: Employees of the CCE on the San Martín farm, Reparto Diezmero, found the bodies of Juan Bautista Terry Parra, a journalist originally from Santiago de Cuba, and Eduardo Palmero Hernández, 30, a resident of 47 Arte Street, Casa Blanca. They had been hung. Two bombs were underneath the men's bodies.

June

June 10: Buenaventura Balú Cañellas, 55, who lived at No. 310 Calvario, was found brutally beaten and floating in the Bay of Santiago de Cuba.

June 20: Mrs. Leonila Biviana Alfonso, widow of Pedro Luis Rodríguez Oliva, owner of the Nispero Club bar, stated to the Southern Trial Court judge in Santiago de Cuba that on the day of his murder, a group of his murdered, and told her men appeared and told her husband, "The lieutenant colonel is outside in the car Garzón and wants to see you. Come Garzón and Tercera, where a garage is located.

June 26: Francisco Omar Girón, 23, who lived at No. 1042 Saco in Santiago de Cuba, was shot to death in the Sueño neighborhood by three individuals who made him get into a car at the corner of Garzón and Tercera, where a garage is located.

June 28: The deaf-mute Miguel de la Nuez Hernández, 20, was shot to death in the city of Cienfuegos, and the victim's father accused police Corporal Francisco Sánchez Chamizo of being the perpetrator.

June 29: In Yaguaramas, Las Villas, the body of Zoilo Durá Rodríguez was found. He had been reported missing by his family on the 11th of that month.

Salvador Pascual Salcedo, Floromido Distel Somodevilla and Josué País García were buried in the Santiago de Cuba cemetery. They were killed in a shoot-out with soldiers José Terrero and Encarnación Ramírez Tamayo, who also died.

The body of Santiago Maymir, who worked as an electrical mechanic in Santiago de Cuba, was found at 603 Trinidad, completely decomposed.

July

July 19: The body of Roberto Matos Frómata, 26, was found shot in the chest on the causeway of the road from Sagua de Tánamo to the Mambí Cay.

July 24: On the roof of the house located at 21 Laborde, in Matanzas, the primary school teacher René Fraga Moreno, of Daoiz Street between Mujica and S. Cristóbal, was shot to death and his body fell into the street. At the same time, José Apolonio López, the 94-year-old grandfather of baseball player Joe Valdivieso, was injured by several bullets that hit his legs.

July 25: Members of the army attacked the funeral of the young Fraga Moreno, firing shots. The funeral cortege was led by the bishop of Matanzas, Monsignor Alberto Martín Villaverde, and other priests.

July 29: María Angélica Martínez Peña, 45, and Ramón del Sol

Díaz, 15, were injured by gunfire on the Cubillas Blanquizar farm in Cienfuegos by several individuals who assaulted her house looking for weapons.



Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

July 30: At 4:30 p.m., student leader Frank País García and Raúl Pujol Almeida, manager of the reputable hardware store Boix were shot to death in Muro Alley in Santiago de Cuba, and Colonel Salas Cañizares reported that they had attacked the police.

In Sierra Canasta, Guantánamo, the body of a man named Marcial was found with several gunshot wounds.

At the Maulini Funeral Home, the body of a man who had been hung to death and found on Vento Road with several hooks under his feet was identified as Reinaldo Castro Fernández, 37, of 19 Munguía, Cerro.

WE FORGET NOTHING



June 15, 1958: Sisters Cristina and Lourdes Giralt Andreu returned that Sunday, Father's Day, from visiting family in their hometown of Cienfuegos. They were on the way to their apartment, No. 42 in the building located at the corner of 19th and 24th, in Vedado.

FATHER'S DAY

Cristina Alicia was a serious, quiet, reserved homebody.

María de Lourdes, Maruca, as she was called, was cheerful and loved dancing and going out.

Ventura's hit men lay in ambush, waiting for the arrival of several members of the underground movement who were hiding in an apartment next door to the Giralt sisters. When they heard footsteps, the men fired their machine guns. Cristina was hit nine times, and María de Lourdes, thirteen.

Neighbors said that one of the murderers kicked the inert arm of one of the sisters, grabbed her by it and threw her body into the police car.



From an early age, they had taken the side of justice and rebelliousness. In primary school, they had experienced discrimination against the poor more than once. Subsequently they began to go through a process of political radicalization when they joined the Civic Resistance Movement.

VICE DECANO DE LA PRENSA DE CUBA

Cinco siglos, Mayo 17 de Junio de 1958

CINCO CENTA

Muertas en La Habana las Señoritas Cristina y Lourdes Giral Andreu

La Policía Buscaba a los Autores del Atentado al Dr. Rey y al Producirse una Balacera, Murieron Ambas, que Pertenecían a Estimada Familia Cienfueguera

HABANA. — El Comandante en una investigación social y política, se dio cuenta de la importancia de la familia Cienfueguera, y al producirse una balacera, murieron ambas, que pertenecían a una familia estimada.

WE FORGET NOTHING

And don't forget that most of the victims now being exhumed or entered on the Revolution's list of martyrs were young people in the prime of their lives, the country's hope for the future. Nothing can make up for their loss.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

MUSEUM OF THE GIRALT SISTERS' BIRTHPLACE

CRISTINA Y LOURDES GIRAL

*Simbolos inocentes de
una juventud asesinada*

15 de Junio de 1958

Directorio Revolucionario.



THE TRAGIC OUTCOME OF THE BATISTA REGIME



Alonso, 1940, un hombre al que se le atribuye un crimen en el barrio de Pinar del Río, conocido como el "Caso de Pinar del Río". Alonso, 1940, un hombre al que se le atribuye un crimen en el barrio de Pinar del Río, conocido como el "Caso de Pinar del Río".

DICIEMBRE

En el mes de diciembre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos. En el mes de diciembre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos. En el mes de diciembre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos.

OCTUBRE

En el mes de octubre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos. En el mes de octubre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos. En el mes de octubre, se celebraron varias fiestas y eventos.

NOVIEMBRE

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1958

January

January 7: In Peña Blanca, near the northern coast of Canasí, Matanzas, a body was found with its hands and feet tied, and the GNI said the individual was probably strangled.

January 24: When Clemente Orlando Nodarse Verde, known as Miguel Ángel, of 29 Cisneros in Guanajay, was about to be arrested by the police, he committed suicide by taking a strong poison, and Ángela Alonso González, of 213 O'Farrill in Santos Suárez, was arrested.

On the Caimanes farm near Santiago de Cuba, the body of a man about 25 years old was found hanging from a fence. He was of mixed race and was not identified.

In La Sierrita, near the Estrada Palma Sugar Mill, the completely decomposed body of a man was found and could not be identified.

February

February 8: In the San Francisco neighborhood of Guanajay, the body of an unknown man was found. He was wearing a grey jacket, brown pants and yellow shoes, but had no documents and could not be identified.

February 9: Near the roasting oven for Pilón coffee in Santiago de Cuba, the body of Alfredo Gutiérrez Lugones, 20, was found after he had been taken from his home by individuals in a jeep.

February 10: Nineteen-year-old Francisco Mirabal was found dead, hanging from a tree near the Coliseo beach resort. His bicycle was found nearby.

February 11: Near San José de las Lajas, Mrs. Aleida Fernández Chardiet, the niece of the president of the attorneys association in Güines, was found dead after being shot in the head by a soldier.

February 13: In the area of Manzanillo and Alto Songo, eight men were found dead, three of them after being hung on the La Caoba farm.

February 18: The Trial Court judge in Matanzas filed homicide charges after the disappearance of Adelino Fraga Rodríguez and Ernesto Pope Suárez, both young men having been arrested by the Plácido Regiment in that city.



Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION

September 12, 1958: At 4 a.m., victims of an informant, the young men Reynaldo Cruz (20 years old), Alberto Álvarez (21), Onelio Dampiel (22) and Leonardo Valdés (23), together with Lidia Doce and Clodomira Acosta Ferrals, are discovered by Ventura and his henchmen in an apartment in the Juanelo neighborhood. After beating them brutally, the thugs shot the four young men to death. Lidia and Clodomira, who threw themselves onto the murderers in defense of their comrades, were arrested.

Corporal Caro, one of the thugs under the orders of Colonel Esteban Ventura Novo, was sentenced to death after the triumph of the Revolution. The charges against him included the arrest and subsequent disappearance of Lidia Doce and Clodomira Acosta Ferrals, who were messengers for the Rebel Army. Caro himself recounted in his trial the horror to which these two heroic women were subjected:

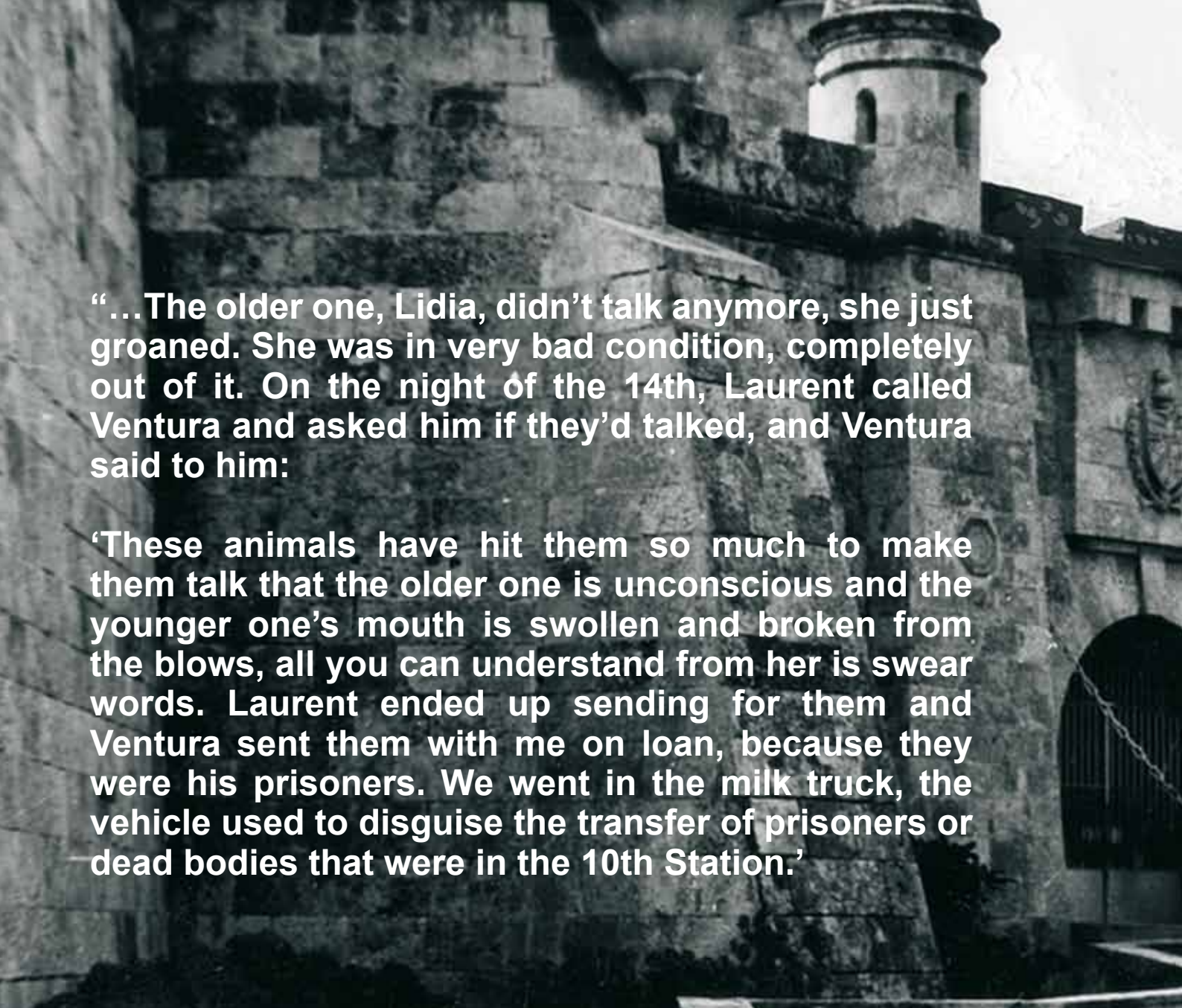
Commemorative plaque for the four murdered young men.

Lidia Doce and Clodomira Acosta Ferrals

A black and white photograph showing a man in a military uniform, possibly a Cuban revolutionary, holding a rifle. He is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. Behind him, another man in a light-colored shirt with dark vertical stripes is visible. The background is slightly blurred, showing what might be a doorway or a window.


Esteban Ventura found refuge in the United States, whose government rejected the Cuban authorities' extradition request. That was the case with the chief torturers and murderers of the Batista dictatorship.

“...They were taken from the Juanelo neighborhood to the 11th Station.... On the 13th, Ventura sent me for them and I took them to the 9th Station; while taking them down into the basement, Ariel Lima pushed them and Lidia fell flat on her face, she could hardly get up, and then he clubbed her over the head.... The skinny mulatta girl got away from me and jumped on top of him, pulling at his shirt and scratching his face with her fingernails. I tried to get her off him and she turned around and jumped on top of me, encircling my waist, and he had to get her off of me by beating her with his club until she was knocked out cold.”



“...The older one, Lidia, didn’t talk anymore, she just groaned. She was in very bad condition, completely out of it. On the night of the 14th, Laurent called Ventura and asked him if they’d talked, and Ventura said to him:

‘These animals have hit them so much to make them talk that the older one is unconscious and the younger one’s mouth is swollen and broken from the blows, all you can understand from her is swear words. Laurent ended up sending for them and Ventura sent them with me on loan, because they were his prisoners. We went in the milk truck, the vehicle used to disguise the transfer of prisoners or dead bodies that were in the 10th Station.’



In the lineup of the regime’s murderers, the Navy had its highest representative in Julio Laurent, an officer with the Naval Intelligence Service. His many victims include Captain Jorge Agostini, followed by a list that would go on for many pages. Sent to carry out operations in Oriente province, he killed defenseless prisoners and sowed terror and death. His last center of operations was in the Castillo de la Chorrera.

We forget nothing

“...After Laurent had tortured them without being able to get a single word out of them, early on the morning of the 15th, he took them, dying by then, to a boat off La Puntilla in back of the Castillo de la Chorrera and lowered them in and out of the water in sacks full of rocks until finally, when that didn't produce any results either, he let them fall into the sea....”



Castillo de la Chorrera, headquarters of the Naval Intelligence Service

In the trials carried out by the revolutionary courts — quick trials, to be sure, like they are in all similar circumstances, but where basic procedural rights were fulfilled, with a defense lawyer for every prosecutor, evidence for every witness, and a priest for every defendant — the horror of the outrages and inhumane acts perpetrated by the vilest henchmen added new levels of indignation and pain to that of the those present and even those who only knew about them indirectly. Because the soul of man has a limit for resisting those feelings that go beyond measure, and no sensitive individual exists who does not tremble and retreat in the face of crime when it is presented in such quantity, dripping with merciless cruelty and derision....

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

THE TRAGIC OUTCOME OF THE BATISTA REGIME



En el Barrio Florio, en la zona de Cabañas, fue asesinado a sangre fría el joven "Zoril" de Montañón, un estudiante de secundaria de 18 años, víctima de la desamortización de la zona.

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Trasladado Manuel María González a la zona de Cabañas, fue asesinado a sangre fría en la zona de Cabañas, víctima de la desamortización de la zona.

March

March 10: The young men who were hung to death in Cabañas, Guantánamo, were identified as Jesús Corrales Castro, 22, an operator at the CMKR Radio station, and his cousin Tomás Rodríguez Castro, 23.

On a farm in Ramón de las Yaguas, they found the body of an unidentified man, approximately 30 years old.

March 18: Three young people were killed in a shoot-out with the police in the Alta Habana neighborhood, and it was said that two of the dead were the revolutionaries known as "El Peludo" and "El Curita."

In front of the Pujol on Infanta and Zanja, the body of a young man was found, a mestizo 24 or 25 years old who was not identified.

In front of the house located at 619 Virtudes, another body was found, a 30-year-old man with four gunshot wounds, and at his side, explosives and a box of matches.

The forensic doctor on duty, García Roses, examined the bodies of three young men, all white, with gunshot wounds and a month's worth of beard growth.





August

August 25: the body of a man was found floating near the shoreline in front of the Hotel Riviera. It was missing one arm and one leg, and was dressed in dark pants, a white dress shirt and black shoes, and could not be identified.

September

September 11: The forensic doctor Aguilar Almeida acknowledged the body of an unknown man, shot four times, found on the Baraguá farm in Diezmero.

At 114 Calzada Vieja in Regla, a young man was found shot to death. He was wearing a uniform of the bus company Omnibus Aliados marked with the initials G.S.

The GNI reported that in the Marianao morgue, three corpses were identified as Carlos Galán Labrado, Evelio Sotero Farrat Delgado and Humberto Sosa Jover.

The GNI identified two other dead men as Roberto Rivero González or Antonio López García, of No. 12 Cerrada, and Reinaldo Cruz Romero, 20, of No. 152 Concepción.

The forensic doctor Bretón Pérez examined the bodies of five young men found shot to death near the conduits of the Albear Canal at Nueva del Pilar and Santa Marta, where a bomb went off.

October

October 2: In Holguín, Walter Dun King, 18, and his half-brother, Rafael Ríos Matamoros, were kidnapped by unknown individuals, and the first was shot to death outside the city.

October 2: The body of a young man was found shot to death on M Street between 25th and 27th in Vedado.

October 6: Three young men were found shot to death in Havana; one on Oquendo, another on Oquendo between Desagüe and Peñalver, and the third on Escobar between San Lázaro and Lagunas.

October 6: The forensic doctor on duty, Pío Dubrocq, examined the body of a man about 28 years old found at No. 2 Luyanó with a bomb and a box of matches in his hands.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

WE FORGET NOTHING

The Judicial Morgue:

Mute testimony to the Batista dictatorship's savagery

More than six hundred bodies were left at the morgue by paddy wagons, patrol cars, and privately-owned vehicles.

"That is an alarming figure when considering the many victims whose bodies never made it to the morgue."

THAT IS MY SON! THE POOR THING, THEY MURDERED HIM. HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE REVOLUTION.

This exclamation came from Mrs. Constanacia Cumbá, when she saw a photo in the Havana morgue of her son, Luis Chandés Cumbá, 29, who had been shot to death by Batista's henchmen on the night of October 1, 1958. His body was dragged to the corner of Santa Maria and Lindero streets, and was left without any identifying documents. Cases like this occurred daily at the Judicial Morgue.

Bohemia magazine
February 1, 1959



This modern building, located on the corner of Hernán Cortes and Puentes Grandes, was mute witness to the savagery and terror that the executioners of the deposed dictator Fulgencio Batista attempted to impose on Havana.

Truly sorrowful scenes were frequent at the morgue, Dr. Muller said. One lady, who had not heard from her son for weeks, recognized his body in a photo. Another young woman, pregnant, left the morgue after identifying her husband; she carried in her belly a baby who would be born fatherless. Hysterical crying, the embraces of parents and children, friends with eyes full of tears and hearts longing for justice, filed from the place in a silent procession.



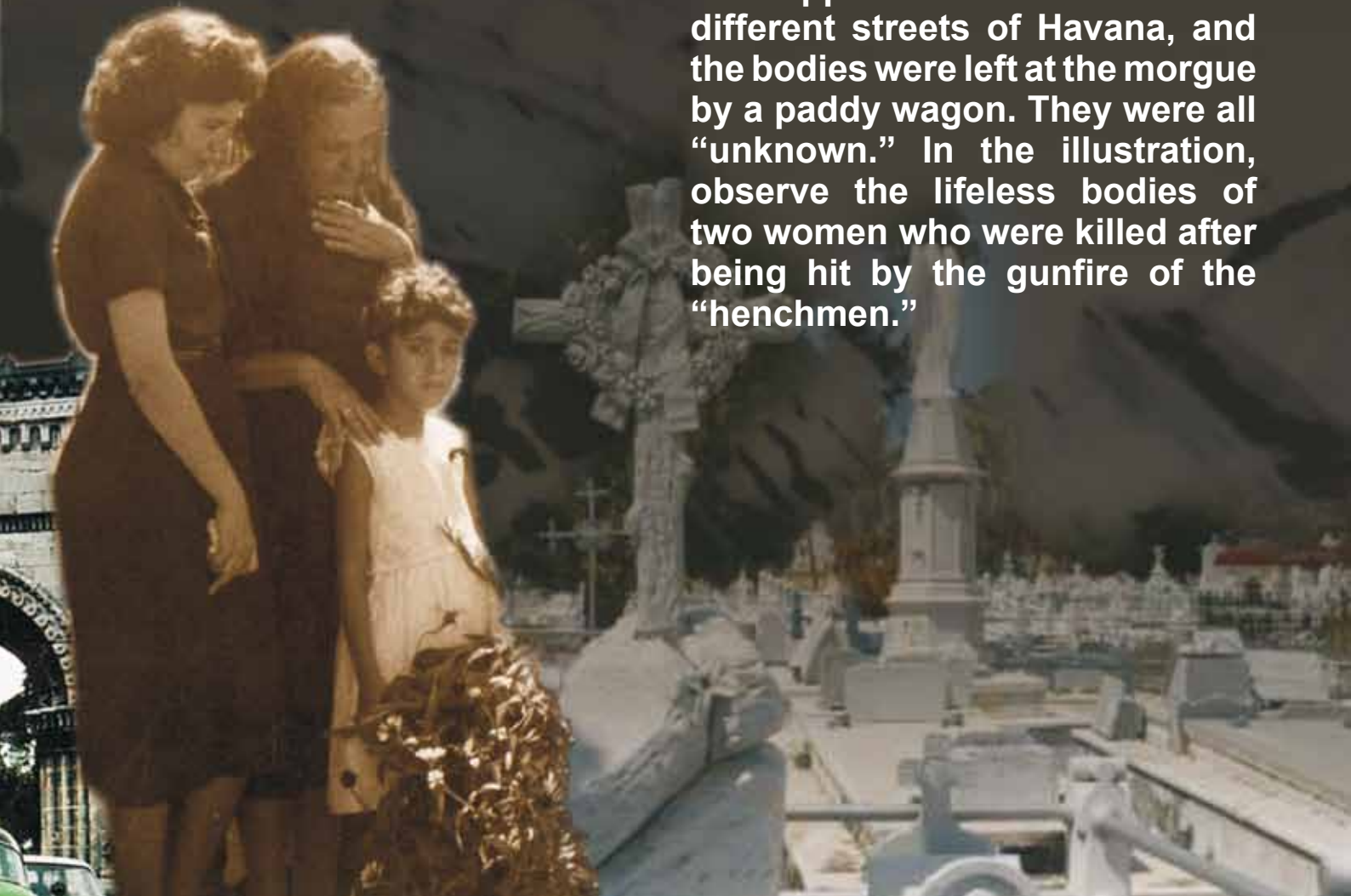


**ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS
PICTURED REMAIN
UNIDENTIFIED.**

Esta foto fue tomada con el riesgo de la vida del fotógrafo. Varios hombres aparecieron balaceados en diferentes calles de La Habana y los cadáveres dejados en el Necrocomio por un carro celular. Todos eran "desconocidos". En la gráfica se observan los cuerpos inertes de dos mujeres que resultaron muertas al ser alcanzadas por las balas disparadas por los "esbirros" cuando iban a ajusticiar a una de sus víctimas.

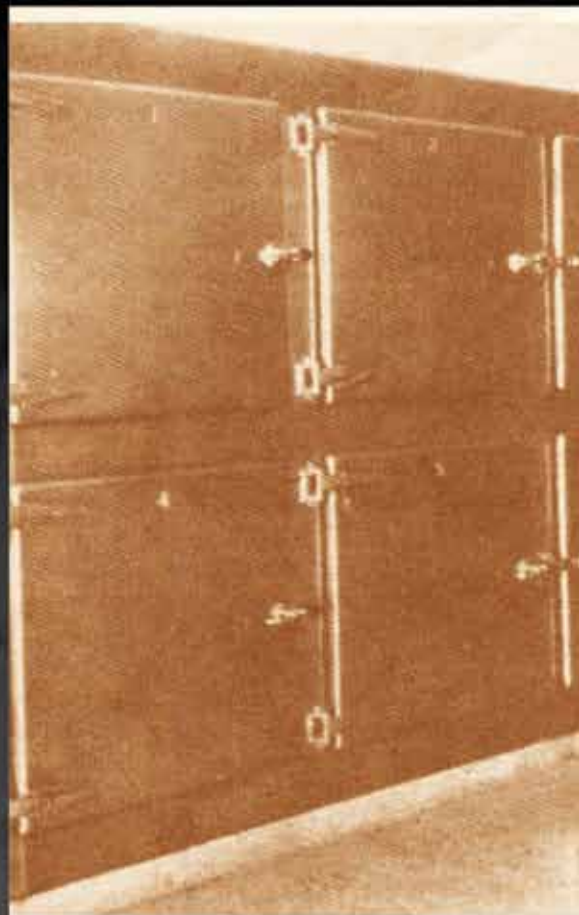


This photo was taken at the photographer's own risk. Several men appeared shot to death on different streets of Havana, and the bodies were left at the morgue by a paddy wagon. They were all "unknown." In the illustration, observe the lifeless bodies of two women who were killed after being hit by the gunfire of the "henchmen."



At first they tried to cover up their crimes with a certain degree of compliance with legal formalities, albeit postmortem. The police reported “discovering” the body, and the forensic doctor would carry out his examinations and hand over the human remains to the relatives. Later, however, killing became even more of an uncontrolled addiction, encouraged and financed by the de facto regime.... The formalities, therefore, were increasingly disregarded. The dead were taken to the morgue’s entrance in paddy wagons, patrol cars and privately-owned vehicles. There they were left, without any identifying papers. Sometimes they were under the age of 14. Some remained for weeks in the morgue’s refrigeration units, waiting for a relative or friend to positively identify them, amidst inconsolable cries and glances heavenward, in search of a merciful God. When nobody came for a body, it was delivered to Colón Cemetery, where it was buried, without mourners or a final farewell, in a grave for the unidentified.

Bohemia magazine
February 1, 1959



It was in these coolers that the bodies of young people remained unidentified. So they stayed in Havana for up to four weeks.





g men were placed after being found dead in the streets of
sometimes the "unknown individuals" would remain there
before they were finally buried.



The morgue's assistant director, Dr. Juan Laguerela, shows this reporter
various photos of the bodies of young men who remain unidentified.
Thanks to this system, he has been able to identify many bodies.

SOME VICTIMS
REMAINED IN THE
"COOLERS" FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS,
AND WERE BURIED
LATER IN A SPECIAL
GRAVE IN COLÓN
CEMETERY ALONG
WITH OTHER
UNIDENTIFIED
BODIES.



Employees Juan Menéndez and Gerardo Carranza indicate the coolers as
they are today..."empty." Now, there is no more terror in Havana, no more
of these violent murders or savagery.

**"Empty". There is no more terror in
Havana, no more violent murders
or savagery.**

The powerful advance of the Rebel Army forces under Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the actions of the underground movement, and the support of the population made the triumph of the Revolution inevitable.

The dictatorship's garrisons surrender, towns are liberated, the jubilation is immense, Santiago de Cuba under seige, Santa Clara liberated.

There is no pact with the enemy, only unconditional surrender.

THE DICTATORSHIP IS TOPPLED



The man who came in the dark of night left on another dark night, enveloped in blood and mud. He did not even have the courage to face a tragic destiny as he had hypocritically proclaimed. **Instead, he took the precaution of ensuring his stolen millions were safely put away.**





TORTURE CHAMBER in SANTA CLARA

**MAY THE MONSTER
NEVER RETURN**

**13 BODIES FOUND
in the HILLS OF PINAR DEL RIO**

**IN THE PEACEFUL SETTING OF KUQUINE
THE MOST TERRIBLE PLOTS WERE HATCHED
AGAINST THE PEOPLE**

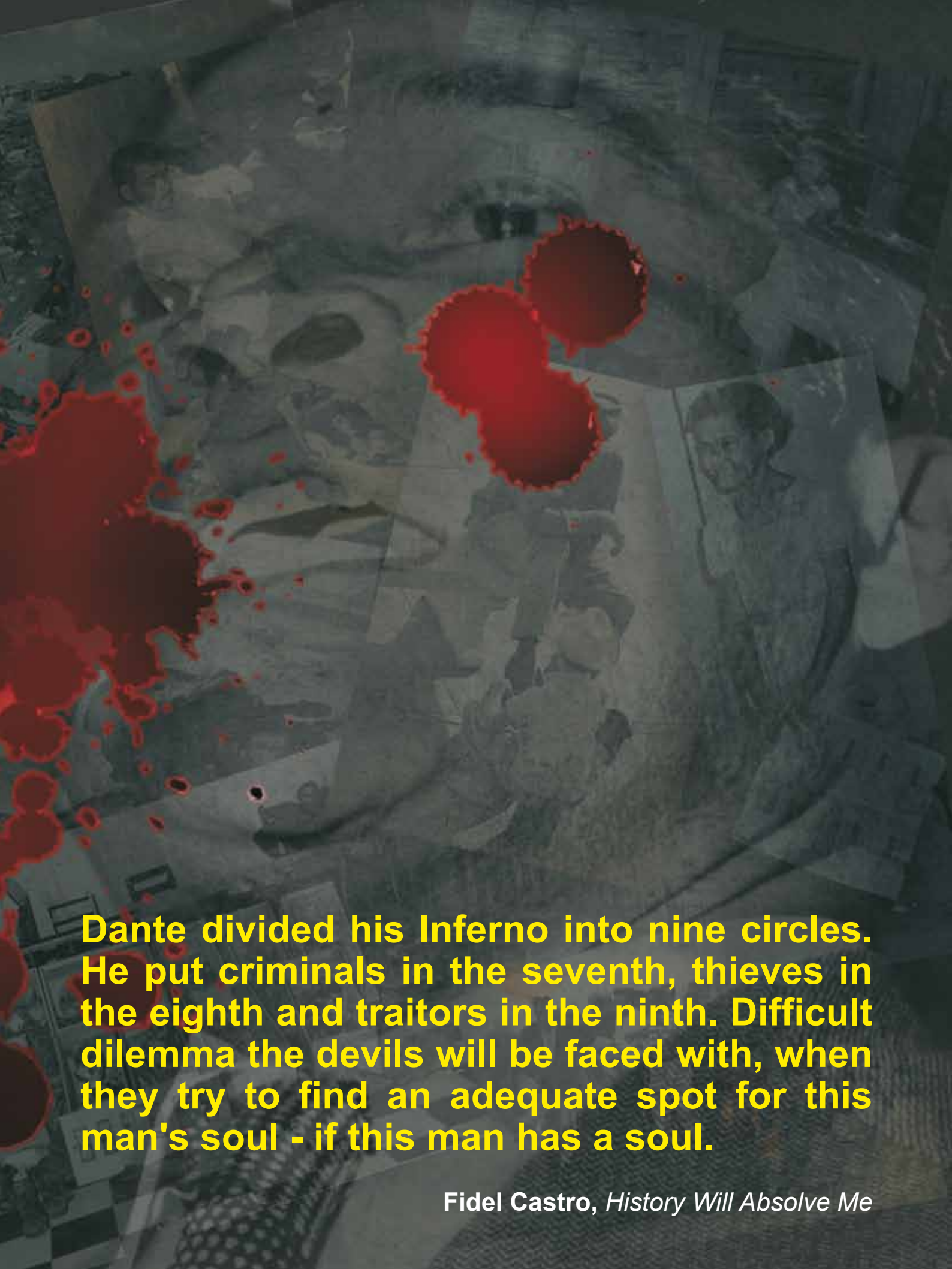
**The CITY MORGUE: Silent Witness
to the Savagery of Batista**

THE 10TH OF MARCH

**OR VANDALISM AND FINANCIAL
IRRESPONSIBILITY IN POWER**

**THE TRAGIC PROCESSION of the
DICTATORSHIP'S VICTIMS CONTINUES**

**WE CUBANS SHOULD NOT
BE SHOCKED BY
DACHAU OR LIDICE**



Dante divided his Inferno into nine circles. He put criminals in the seventh, thieves in the eighth and traitors in the ninth. Difficult dilemma the devils will be faced with, when they try to find an adequate spot for this man's soul - if this man has a soul.

Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

I received the first news about the triumph of the Revolution from my mother-in-law, who burst in with her face lit up by a smile to tell me that Batista had left the country.

I dressed quickly and went outside. I lived in El Vedado, in the same building where I live now. I headed for La Víbora, where I was born and where my parents live. I went to share the universal joy of that news with them. The streets were full of people who had come out, also happy, to do the same thing; that is, to celebrate.

On the bus that took me to my parents' house, on an envelope that I had — which I ripped open to write on — I jotted down a poem called ***The Other One (January 1st, 1959)***, reflecting the extraordinary sensation of that moment for us. That poem was later published many times, including in other languages.





The Other

(January 1st, 1959)

**We, the survivors,
To whom do we owe our survival?
Who died for me in the dungeon?
Who received my bullet,
The one for me, in his heart?
Upon what death am I alive?
His bones in mine,
His eyes that were pulled out, looking
Out through my gaze,
And the hand that is not his hand,
That is not my hand either,
Writing broken words
Where he does not exist, in survival?**

Roberto Fernández Retamar. Poet, essayist.

1959: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL

....Our country, which was in the writings, in the glimpses of our poets, in the passion of our founding fathers, was suddenly incarnated with a terrible, devastating beauty on January 1, 1959. We had it before our eyes, alive in the immediate and incredible men who in the mountains and plains had carried out what was prophesied, the dream of so many heroes, the obsession of so many solitary men....

....That year would be the most beautiful, the decisive one of our lives, because we saw a true, real reflection of the “the hour of essential desire and satisfaction.”



L, DECISIVE ONE OF OUR LIVES

It was the image of Martí falling eternally under the sun of Dos Ríos, shortly before pronouncing those words: “And we will arrive victorious at the gates of the capital of crime....”

....What fertilization, sweeping away those innumerable frustrations, unspeakable humiliations, detailed nightmares! Other combats then began, but their evolution now had roots, coherence, identity. The blood has been accepted, the sun of the living and the dead shines, demanding, in the midst of it all. **“And everything that seemed impossible was possible.”**

Cintio Vitier. Poet, essayist.



EDICION DE T

January first!

Radiantly the morning dawns.

**The shadows are gone! Gleaming the bright star
of the redeemed Cuban flag**

The air fills with a joyful clamor.

**Souls intersect greetings and kisses,
and on all the graves of the noble fallen
flowers burst open and their bones sing.**

**A jubilant hurricane of flags goes by
and of jet black and beet colored armbands.**

**The enthusiasm shakes balconies and
sidewalks,**

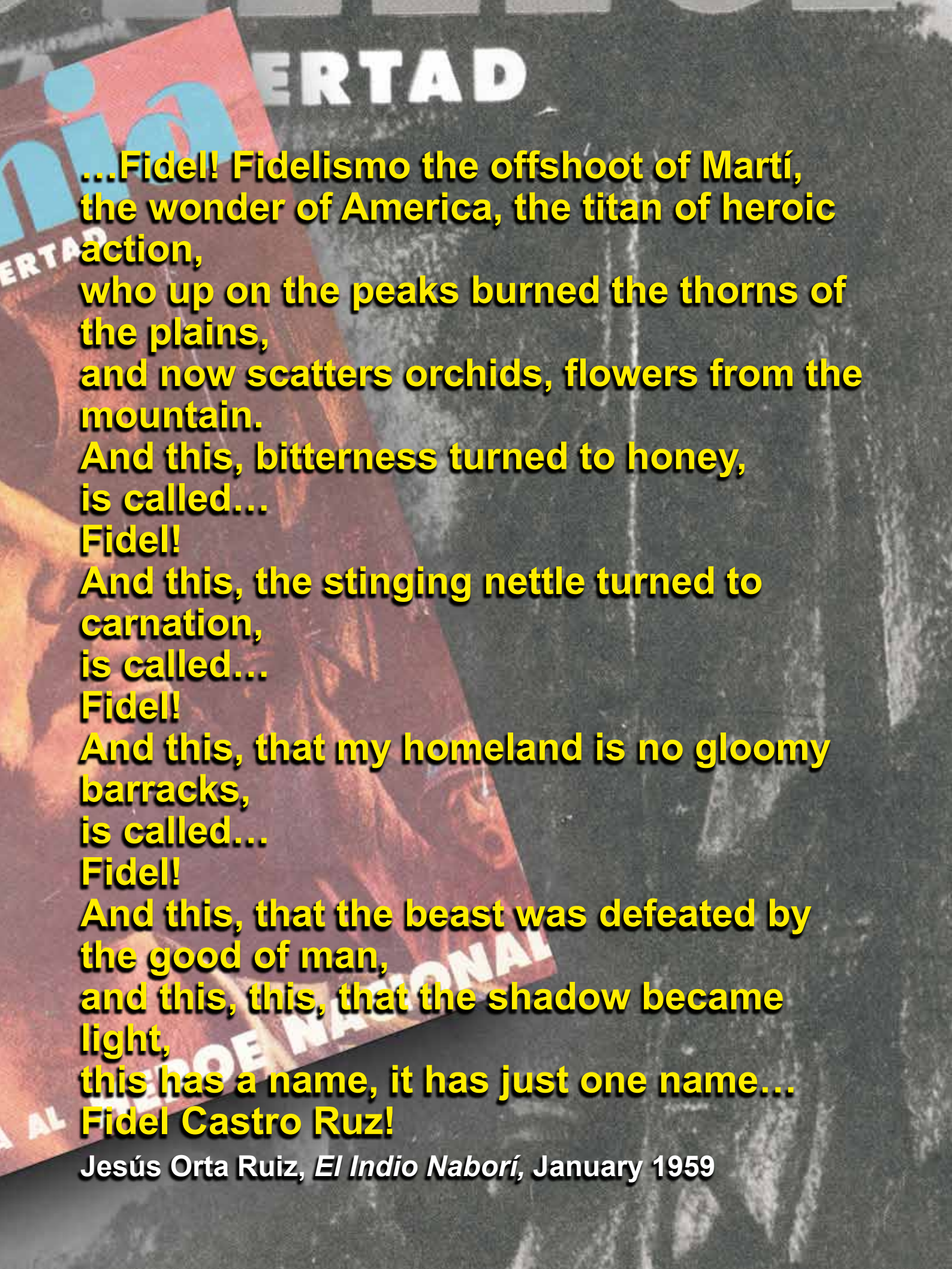
it shouts from every windowsill.

**In the daylight the prisons open
and arms embrace: happiness opens
like a red rose in the hearts
of mothers sick with melancholy.**

**Young bearded men, rebel diamonds
in olive suits come down from the hills,
and their sweetness makes the victorious
heroes seem like armed, fierce doves.**

**They come, vanquishers of hunger, bullets
and cold...**

HONOR Y GLORIA



**...Fidel! Fidelismo the offshoot of Martí,
the wonder of America, the titan of heroic
action,
who up on the peaks burned the thorns of
the plains,
and now scatters orchids, flowers from the
mountain.**

**And this, bitterness turned to honey,
is called...**

Fidel!

**And this, the stinging nettle turned to
carnation,
is called...**

Fidel!

**And this, that my homeland is no gloomy
barracks,
is called...**

Fidel!

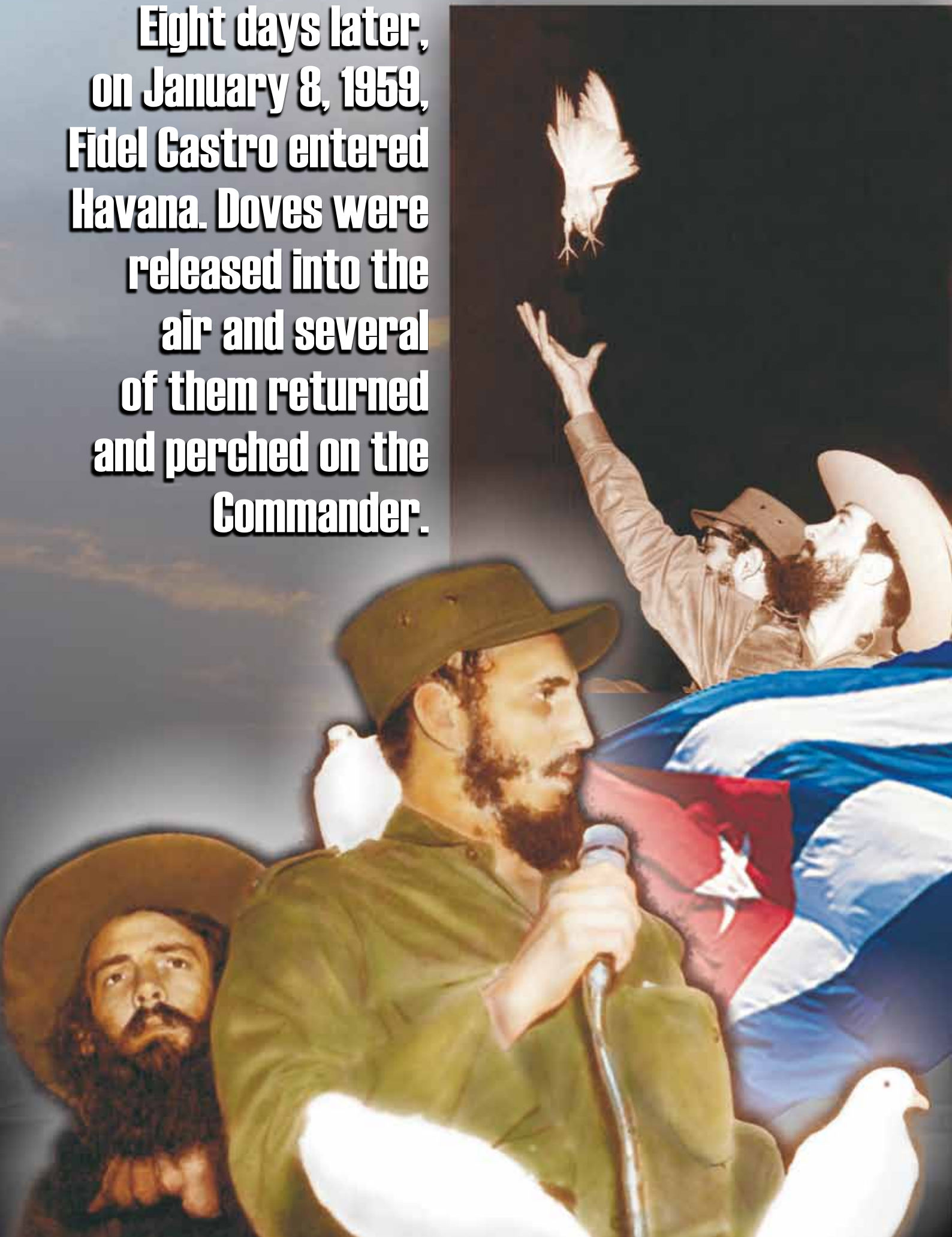
**And this, that the beast was defeated by
the good of man,
and this, this, that the shadow became
light,**

this has a name, it has just one name...

Fidel Castro Ruz!

Jesús Orta Ruiz, *El Indio Naborí*, January 1959

**Eight days later,
on January 8, 1959,
Fidel Castro entered
Havana. Doves were
released into the
air and several
of them returned
and perched on the
Commander.**





Those days immediately following the triumph were like an epiphany for me. Never before in my personal life, even after winning literary prizes or being honored for my work, have I felt such emotion. I followed the news, step by step, of the Caravan of Liberty's advance toward Havana. The most moving day of all was January 8th. The family gathered at a cousin's home at Marina and Malecón and watched the caravan come in. I saw Fidel for the first time. The women threw flowers at him. I heard his speech in Ciudad Libertad. When the doves landed on him, religious believers said that Fidel had the protection of Oddúa or Obatalá. It seemed to me later that it was a metaphor for the future.

Miguel Barnet. Poet, novelist, ethnologist

In 1959 the swan returned to Havana

"That very day, January 1, 1959, in Chicago, I had promised the compañeros of the revolutionary movement that I would go to a television studio and appeal to the public about the danger posed for Cuba's young people in the repression of Fulgencio Batista's henchmen, whose criminal practices were increasing as the regime began to lose ground.... I was ready, very early in the morning, when somebody said to me, 'Batista fled, the rebels are in Santiago, the dictatorship is over.'"

"I FELT SOMETHING VERY BIG INSIDE, AS IF ALL OF CUBA WERE INSIDE MY HEART."

On February 2, 1959, returning to its beloved homeland, the Cuban Ballet performed in honor of the Rebel Army and the revolutionary government.



"BALLET DE CUBA"
CON
ALICIA ALONSO e IGOR YOUSKEVITCH
Festividad en honor
del
Ejército Rebelde y el Gobierno Revolucionario
TEATRO BLANQUITA
FEBRUERO 2 7:30 p. m.
PROGRAMA
Director General: Fernando Alonso
... Celebran por el Dr. Julio Martínez Piles, Ministro de Salud y Director del Ballet de Cuba.

"LAS SILFIDES"
Coreografía de Mikhail Fokine
Música de Friedrich Chopin
Escenografía: Luis Márquez

Nocturno	Elona del Cuervo, Martha Mahr, Margarita de Sol.
Vals	Martha Mahr.
Mazurka	Margarita de Sol.
Préludio	Elona del Cuervo.
Ballet d. Pie	Margarita de Sol y Peter Nielsen.
Vale Final	Martha Pili, Ramona de Sol, Aurora Rosch, Josefina Mirones, Adonis Rosch, Eduardo Rosch, Levisca de Sol, Ileana del Pino, Martha Mahr, Adam, Matilde Batista, Nancy García, Margarita Urbina, Estrella Chan, Margarita Lasso, Mariana Rodríguez, Amy González del Valle y Vito Pili.

"CUATRO FUGAS"
Música de Edgardo Martín
Coreografía de Alberto Alonso

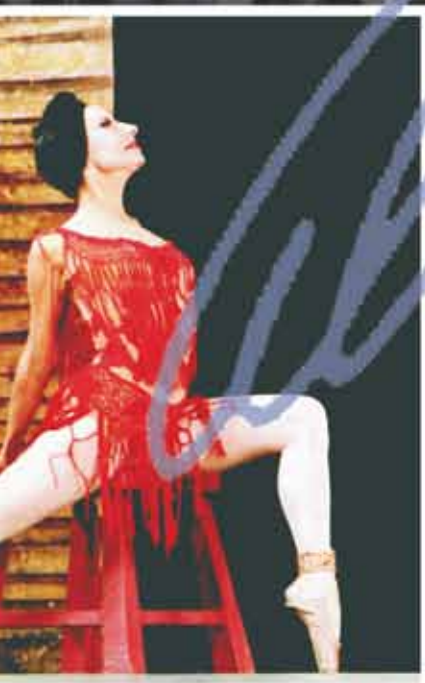
Elona del Cuervo, Martha Pili, Ramona de Sol, Margarita de Sol, Aurora Rosch, Josefina Mirones, Adonis Rosch, Eduardo Rosch, Levisca de Sol.
--

La coreografía de esta obra, al igual que su música, han sido de nuestros músicos más puros, elevándose a través de la popularidad de verdaderos expresiones artísticas en este ballet sin argumentos.

"EL CISNE NEGRO"
ALICIA ALONSO - IGOR YOUSKEVITCH
Termino del Ballet del Lago de los Cisnes

ORQUESTA
Mauricio...





That year, the Cuban Ballet was reorganized with the best of its dancers from before its dissolution. On May 20, 1960, Law No. 182 was passed, guaranteeing the state's permanent protection of the National Ballet of Cuba.

In 1961, Fidel met with Cuba's artists and intellectuals. His exact words to us were:

"THE PEOPLE ARE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE, WE MUST THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE BEFORE OURSELVES AND THAT IS THE ONLY ATTITUDE THAT CAN BE DEFINED AS A TRULY REVOLUTIONARY ATTITUDE..."

And that is the teaching that we can offer the new generations of artists and art students, in our country and in America.

Alicia Alonso. Prima Ballerina Assoluta

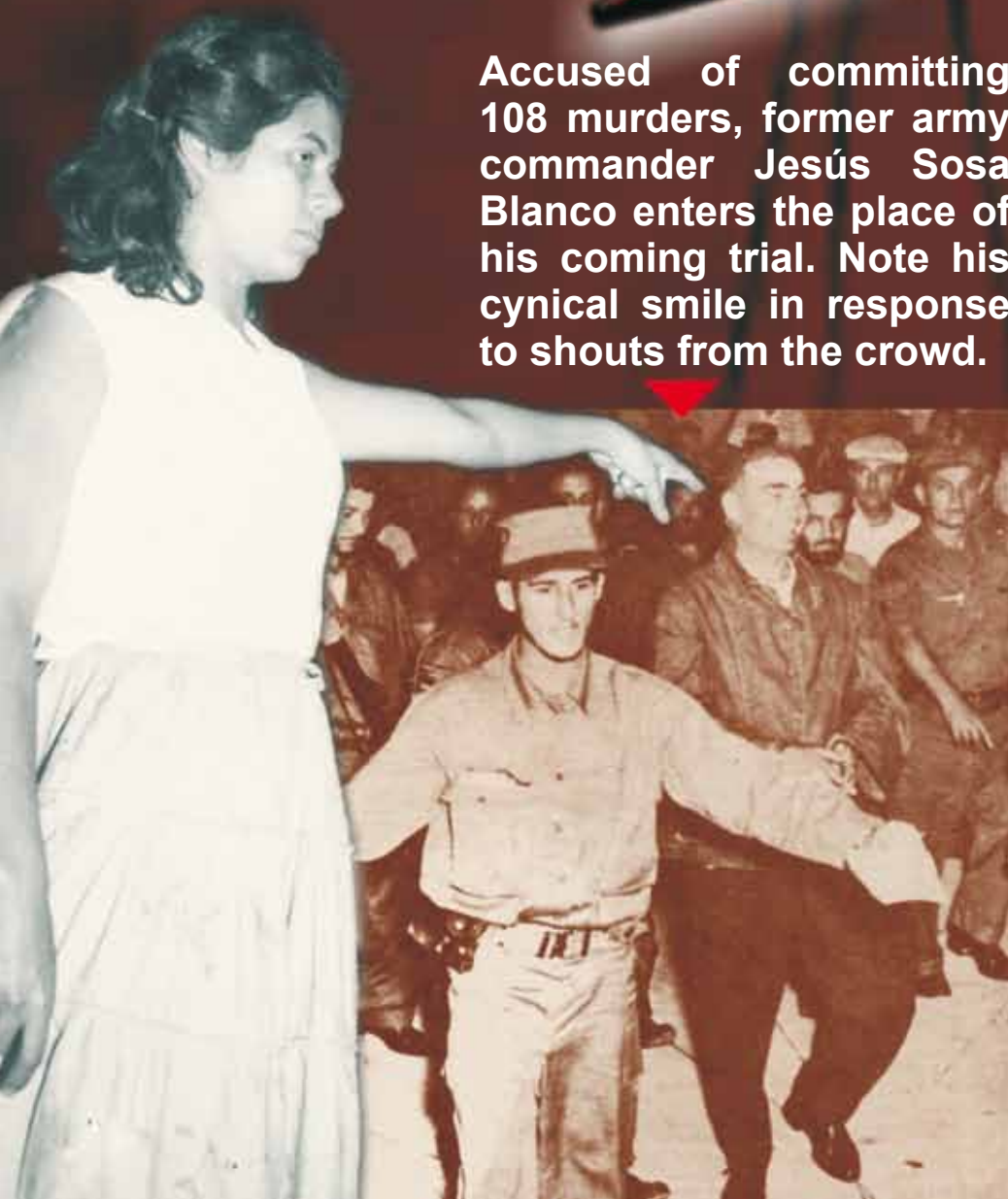
...Those responsible for the bloodshed and all kinds of crimes against the people will be tried by revolutionary courts, in legal proceedings covered by all kinds of rights.... They don't want to punish the crime with crime, but with the law.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959

JUSTICE



Accused of committing 108 murders, former army commander Jesús Sosa Blanco enters the place of his coming trial. Note his cynical smile in response to shouts from the crowd.



As witness Tomasa Batista tries to move toward the seat nearby occupied by Sosa Blanco, she cannot contain her cries: "Murderer! Criminal!" Despite the woman's pleas, Sosa shot down her husband in front of her, leaving 11 children fatherless.

The massacre of the Argote family was a tragedy worse than any seen before in Bayamo. The killing was directed by Colonel Sosa Blanco. The list of victims: León Martín Argote, coffee farmer and head of the family; Conrado Argote, 20; Eleusipio Argote Pita, 16; Gerardo Argote Maceo, 19; Juan Argote Estrada, 14; Víctor Argote, 15; Aracelia Argote, 48; Cirilo Argote Cisneros, 23, and León Martín Argote's son-in-law, Lorenzo Céspedes, 19. The only one to escape was an 8-year-old boy. It occurred on the El Oro farm, in the Dátil neighborhood, where the number of killed or missing farmers totaled more than 100 at that time.



The accusing finger of witness María Jacinta Gálvez Martínez points to Sosa Blanco, sitting nearby. "He was the one who ordered the shooting of nine members of the Argote family in El Oro de Guisa," the nervous country woman shouted.



The foreign journalists who attended the hearing included the president of the Inter-American Press Society, Jules Dubois; the editor of the *Washington Daily News*, John T. O'Bourke, and the Chilean parliamentarians Alfredo Lorca and José Musalem.



WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

JUSTICE



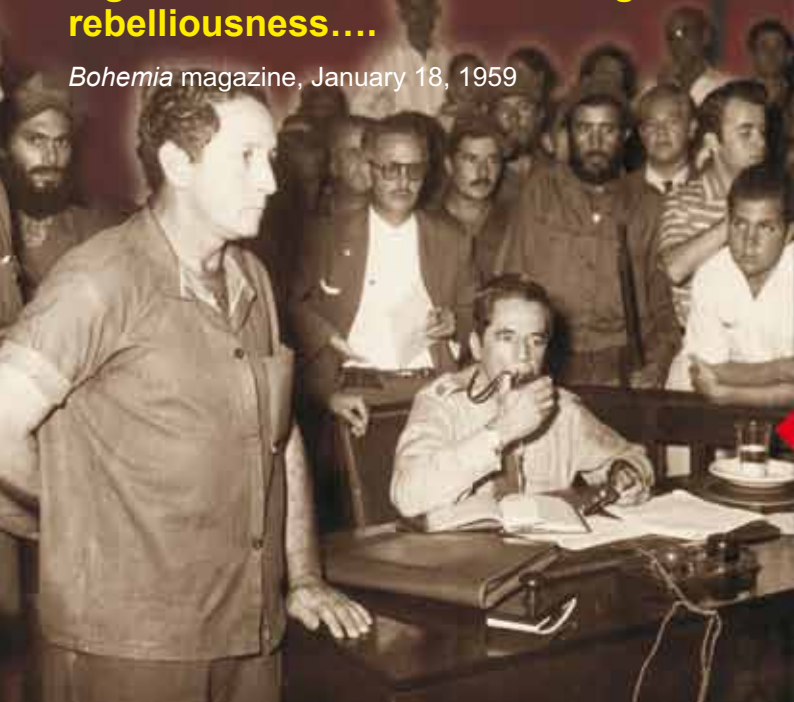
THE DEAD SP



You killed him in front of me.

For the Cuban people, regardless of ideology, these are cases of moral failure. Nobody, except for the dictatorship's members and accomplices, believe any kind of community is possible with the dictatorship's executioners. Do you want to know why? It's because many cannot sleep for the clamor of so many mothers from whose breasts they snatched their children to torture them in police chambers or to bury them, sometimes alive, in common graves, together with their comrades of generous rebelliousness....

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959



He was the one.

What did they do at the Moncada? They killed prisoners. What did they do with Calixto Sánchez and his 16 comrades? They murdered them. The prisoners would hear over the radio that they were dead when they were still alive. They heard the news alive....

During the hearings, defendants made mutual accusations, openly describing how the apparatus of terror worked. The process followed military law, and the responsibilities of each were clearly established.

POKE THROUGH THE WITNESSES



The priest of the Macareño Sugar Mill testifying against Colonel Suárez Suquet.

As the trial was being held, a group of women in mourning, relatives of the dictatorship's victims, remained in front of the Castle of San Severino hoping that the Revolution would ensure justice was done.



There was the case of a lieutenant who was executed in Santiago de Cuba after being accused of committing 70 murders. He confessed to the court to having killed 17 people. Those deaths did not occur on a battlefield, but on that city's streets and suburbs, and the victims were forcibly removed from their homes.

WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET

[illegible]

Algunos de ellos han pagado ya con la vida algo de sus crímenes. Otros han hecho, cuando suyo talan, con el amor prelatado de la fe, el mal que han cometido. Entre sus guardias los perseguirá siempre el odio, cuando de un pueblo que los odiaba al ser sometido al yugo extranjero. Y será cruel a que se les recuerde siempre cuando sus miembros y pensamientos los vean. Que cada uno ellos lo sepa mejor.



de pesados. Estaba estirado y vestido de uniforme. En Malinas me dijo que había desarrollado una teoría de la muerte por la contaminación atmosférica y La Habana y el Uruguay estaban sus amigos de todo. "M", "M" y aquella vez, desde entonces a los pocos días el general, el mayor, el capitán me susurraban y me decían que cada uno de sus

Cuba experienced an atmosphere of terror like never before in its republican history. These photos serve to show the world, once again, the unprecedented savagery of the men who were the mainstays of the Batista dictatorship.



...militante Néstor Torres, quien participaba, al lado de muchos, a pesar
de su avanzada edad, de las manifestaciones. Cumplido un periodo de aislamiento
y de un tratamiento de rehabilitación, fue puesto en libertad. Después de
veinte días de guerra, de hostilidades continuas, las autoridades militares
de la zona de Cuyabeno, Chiriquí, le permitieron salir de la zona
y se fue a vivir a su casa en la ciudad de Panamá. Allí se fue a vivir
con su familia y a su trabajo. En la actualidad, sigue viviendo en la ciudad
de Panamá, en su casa, con su familia y a su trabajo.

[illegible]

BATISTA'S HENCHMEN TORTURED!



The ones who managed to leave the dictatorship's dungeons alive showed signs of torture.



Instruments for pulling out eyes and nails, electric prods, whips, clubs for breaking bones, a real criminal arsenal. Some, described by survivors, have not yet been found.

WE FORGET NOTHING

JUSTICE

On Monday the 12th, four war criminals responsible for numerous atrocities were executed by firing squad in Santiago de Cuba. They were captain Guti érez, lieutenant Enrique Despaigne, sergeant René Casso Pérez and soldier Elodio Abreu Pedroso. Their accusers, relatives of the victims, testified about 50 murders.

Bohemia magazine, January 11, 1959



WE FORGET NOTHING

And all of a sudden, as soon as the first discharge of rifle fire carried out the first sentence issued by the special courts of the Revolution, a scandal broke out, disseminated and amplified as if by loudspeakers by the Associated Press. There began to be talk of a "bloodbath" in Cuba. The facts were distorted, the truth falsified. Misunderstanding, if not malice, flourished.



BUT NEVER, DURING THE REGIME OF DISHONOR THAT THE CUBAN PEOPLE SUFFERED, DID THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNLEASH ANY CAMPAIGN OF CONDEMNATION OVER THOSE EVENTS.

And those were the days when Pilar García would distribute bodies around the capital as if they were milk bottles. The days when the hangman's rope, bullets and torture were the lords of the island, when political prisoners were abused in the dungeons of Príncipe castle, when the air force would pulverize cities and attack farmers with machine-gun fire.



They were the days when José María Salas Cañizares, with a bayonet, slashed open the bellies of young people in Santiago, and when Ventura castrated prisoners before killing them, and when Menocal quartered them by tying their arms and legs to two jeeps that accelerated in opposite directions.



A priest, Father Chabebe, who gave them their last rites, declared that they were notorious for their violence and cruelty, the gangsters of Rolando Masferrer who killed mercilessly.

The opinion exists, he said, that this is being done to prevent a return by these people in three or four years. Between 500 and 1,000 residents of Santiago have been killed or tortured by Batista's hired assassins in recent times.

It was an authorized opinion, issued right on the execution field; it was a man who, because of his ministry, could not encourage ignoble sentiments of vengeance. However, even before the smoke cleared from the first volley, voices were heard haggling, one way or another, over Cuba's right to apply justice on its own territory.

He had been thrown into a police car and led before Colonel José María Salas Cañizares, who riddled him with questions. In the course of the interrogation, the baleful officer, with an offhand gesture, pulled his frightening bayonet from its holster and acted as though he were cleaning his nails. All of a sudden, with the moves of a consummate thug, he sunk the sharp knife into the lower stomach of the young Guillén [José Ramón Guillén, 16 years old], opening his abdominal cavity. Salas Cañizares asked for a sheet of paper, wiped the blood off the bayonet and turned to one of his henchmen.

"Take him and get rid of him...!"

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

The young Guillen was left in a thicket half-dead, but was able to pull himself up and, holding his guts with his hands, got out onto the road. A little while later, with the help of nearby residents, he was taken to the hospital and survived.

JUSTICE



A private cemetery belonging to Commander Menocal was found In San Cristóbal, and funerals were held for four students from the Catholic University of Villanueva who were murdered in the Pozas garrison after being arrested.

Los Fusilamientos en Manzanillo

THE PEOPLE PLACED THE SAVAGE "MASFERRER TIGERS" ON TRIAL AND SENT THEM TO THE FIRING SQUAD.



Pagaron con sus vidas los crímenes cometidos, después de recibir los auxilios de un sacerdote católico.

por MANUEL SALAZAR CABALLERO

FOTOS DE "PANCHITO" CANO Y ORLANDO RETES

La justicia revolucionaria se plasmó en Manzanillo a las pocas horas de traspasar las armas recibidas sobre la tiranía. En Talpa, integrado por combatientes de los batallones bolcheviques se encargó de recibir a los prisioneros y de darles el primer auxilio. Muchos de los prisioneros manifestaron que habían presenciado la ejecución de sus compañeros al mando del comandante Felipe Hernández. En la bella ciudad del Pacífico...

Foto con los miembros del Tribunal Revolucionario de Manzanillo, juzgaron y sentenciaron a los criminales de guerra. De izquierda a derecha: Víctor Suárez, Rafael Montiel y Ramón Fernández. Varias: con el abogado Pérez Roca, presidente; y doctor Alberto Ríos, secretario de la Secretaría Amada del Povo, uno antes de ser asesinado.



...And they murdered seven children and the husband of one woman. And whoever has the fear of losing one child might consider and calculate the pain that it means to lose seven children and a husband. And those cases happened one afternoon. Nobody protested, and during that time, the Batista dictatorship continued to receive bullets and tanks and bombs, and a U.S. military mission was giving classes at the Columbia base to those murderers.

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959



1959: What had seemed



January 9: The U.S. government is notified of the decision to end that country's standing military mission to the island. The recovery of national sovereignty begins.



January 13: The General Sports Department is created. Athletes yes; sports no. This phrase used by the press typified the reality of sports in Cuba before 1959. With the Revolution, sports become the right of the people. In a few years, it began to reap successes.



January 24: The Ministry of the Recuperation of Misappropriated Goods is created. Confiscation is authorized for all ill-gotten goods of the dictator Fulgencio Batista and his henchmen. One of the first actions involved five boxes found on Kuquine Farm containing 800 jewels worth more than two million pesos (about \$100 million today).



January 26: Law No. 26 is passed, suspending evictions in the countryside and in the city. Thousands of families unable to pay their monthly rent because of the rampant unemployment or who had no land for erecting a miserable bohío, no longer faced the possibility of being thrown out, something that used to be a daily occurrence.

impossible was possible

February 6: Via Law No. 49, the Ministry of Social Welfare is created.



February 7: The Fundamental Law of the Republic is passed, a legal instrument essential to implementing revolutionary transformations.



February 17: Law No. 86 is passed, overturning the Fund for the Cuban National Lottery.



Insofar as: Gambling is a vice.

Insofar as: Of all forms of gambling, the worst is that which feeds off the scarce resources of the poorest classes of the people and which impoverishes citizens materially and prostitutes them morally.

Insofar as: The money that was previously extracted from the people's economy to enrich the opportunistic followers of the government of the day may be employed in a project of extraordinary social benefit.

Insofar as: One of the most useful measures that the government of the Revolution may implement is one to clear the way for the definitive solution of the housing problem.

Article Two: To create in its place an autonomous agency: National Institute of Savings and Housing (INAV), which would have the following objectives:

To invest the funds that can be collected via this plan and whatever else can be mobilized for the definitive solution of the housing problem.

The INAV begins an enormous housing plan in the cities and in the countryside. In a few years, the neighborhoods of misery like the Las Yaguas begin to disappear from the capital. The cities of Camilo Cienfuegos in La Habana del Este, and Alamar are created.





February 18: The Military Intelligence Service (SIM), Bureau for the Repression of Communist Activities (BRAC), and other repressive agencies of the Batista dictatorship were formally dissolved. Their offices were transformed into schools or demolished to make way for beautiful parks.



March 3: The Council of Ministers passes Law No. 122, which provides for the nationalization of the Cuban Telephone Company and the annulment of Presidential Decree No. 552 of March 13, 1957, which had raised telephone rates.



March 6: The Law to Lower Housing Rents is passed, cutting rent of up to 100 pesos monthly by 50%; over 100 and up to 200 pesos by 40%, and over 200 pesos monthly by 30%. This was welcomed by the entire people with unquestionable joy.



March 20, 1959: Decree No. 709
Insofar as: It is the government's unwavering intention to reduce the cost of living to the benefit of the popular classes, by lowering the prices of basic and necessary or common items, to an extent that permits the legitimate profits of producers and sellers.
First: To stipulate a gradual reduction of up to fifteen percent (15%) in established

retail prices of pharmaceutical specialties produced in laboratories based within national territory and twenty percent (20%) for those made in foreign laboratories.

March 20: Parking meters are eliminated.



March 24: The Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry (ICAIC) is created.

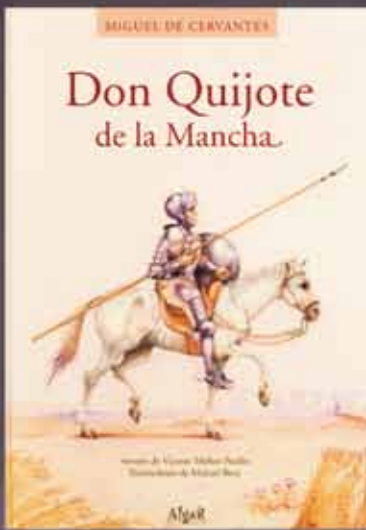


March 25: Fidel explains to the people, in a television broadcast, the Revolution's policy toward racial discrimination, which had always been one of the worst blights of Cuban society. The Revolution eliminated racial segregation in companies, clubs, beaches, businesses, schools, and elsewhere.



March 31: In 1959, a number of resolutions were passed for promoting the country's cultural development, and one of the most significant ones was the creation of the National Printing Company, just three months after the revolutionary victory. It was immediately given the task of making available to the people the most important works of Cuban and international literature.





The emblematic writer Alejo Carpentier was appointed director. The National Printing Company's first published work was a massive edition of the great classic of Spanish and world literature, *Don Quijote de la Mancha* by Miguel de Cervantes, with a print run of 100,000, sold at a low price. It was followed by numerous works of universal literature as well as political and social ones, at very accessible prices.



April 15: The creation of the Abel Santamaría University Complex is approved in Santa Clara. A credit of one million pesos is given to the Ministry of Health, and a wage raise is approved for sugar cane workers.



May 17: At the Rebel Army's Command Headquarters during the struggle against the dictatorship in La Plata, in the Sierra Maestra, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro signs the Agrarian Reform Law of just redress. Cooperatives are formed, along with people's stores, which are filled with food, clothing, shoes and toys. Roads are built. For the first time, doctors and teachers enter the countryside, even remote locations. With this law of just redress, hunger and misery in the Cuban countryside is eliminated.



May 29: Workers' retirement funds and pensions had not escaped the general corruption of public activities. The directors of these funds, in connivance with pro-Batista labor leaders, engaged in shifty doings, and many got scandalously rich.

One of the major ills the new revolutionary power had to confront was eliminating the vast amount of corruption and injustice suffered by Cuba's exploited workers.

Law No. 351 was passed to create the national Bank of Social Security (BANESCU), placing existing workers' retirement funds under a new agency, which began a process of reorganizing and unifying them.

Months later, via Law No. 667, minimum wage was set at 40 pesos. To determine the worth of these measures, we must remember that many pensions were for the amount of seven or eight pesos monthly and more than a few pensioners were paid irregularly.

The establishment of a minimum pension had the biggest impact on the sugar and tobacco industries, where workers received the lowest pensions.

From then on, universal access to social security was initiated, and it is now a pillar of social protection in Cuban society.

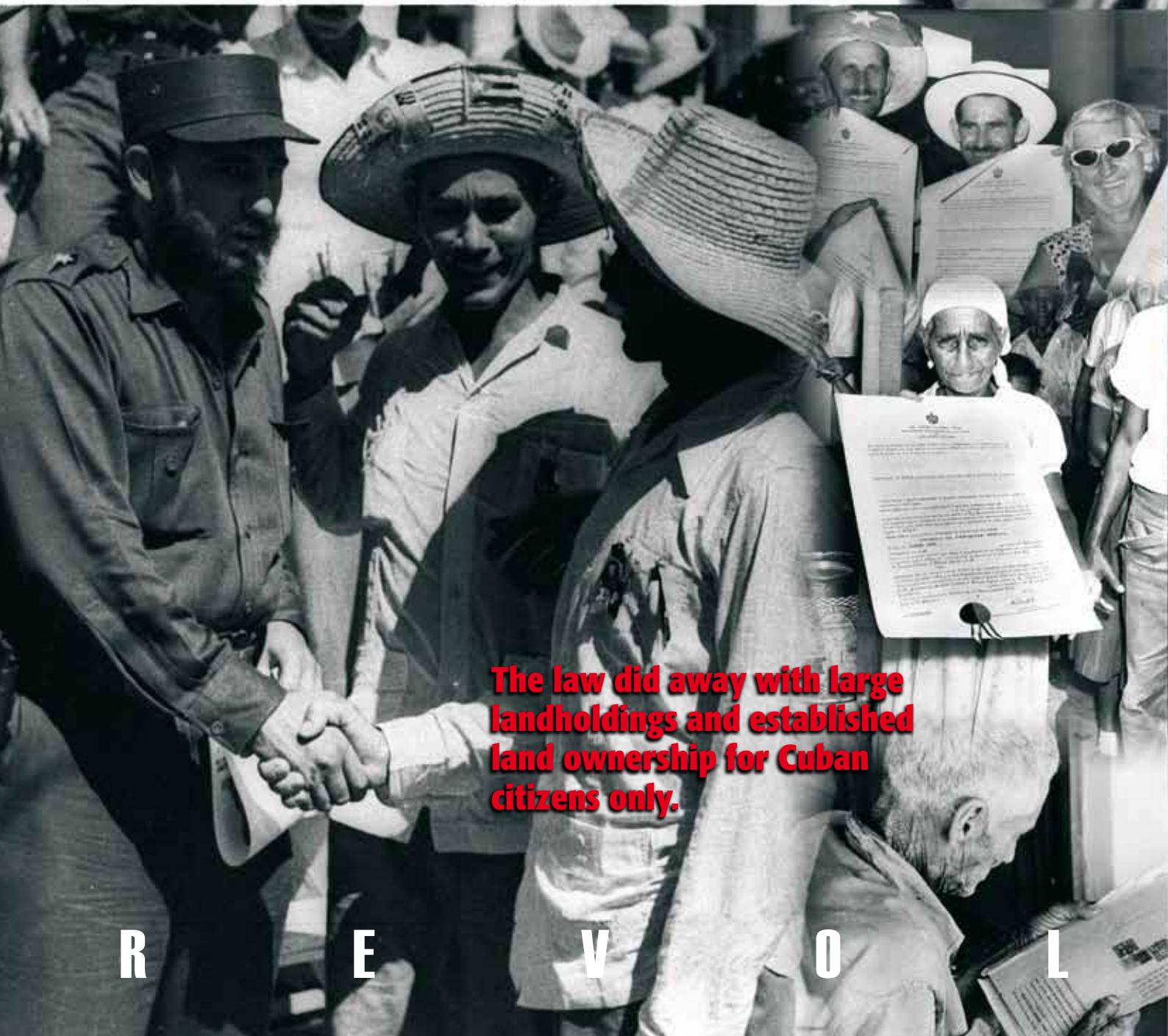
June 13: The first people's beach is opened in Bacuranao. More than a few beach areas were exclusive to private clubs.



AGRARIAN REFORM LAW NOW IN EFFECT

LAND TITLES TO
100,000 LEASE-HOLDERS

REVOLUCION
ORGANO DEL MOVIMIENTO 26 DE JULIO



The law did away with large
landholdings and established
land ownership for Cuban
citizens only.

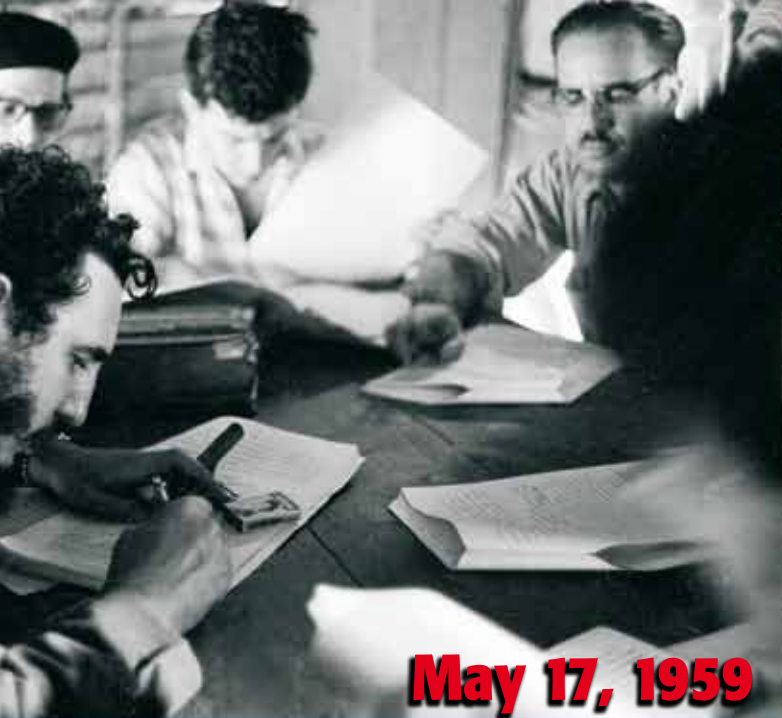
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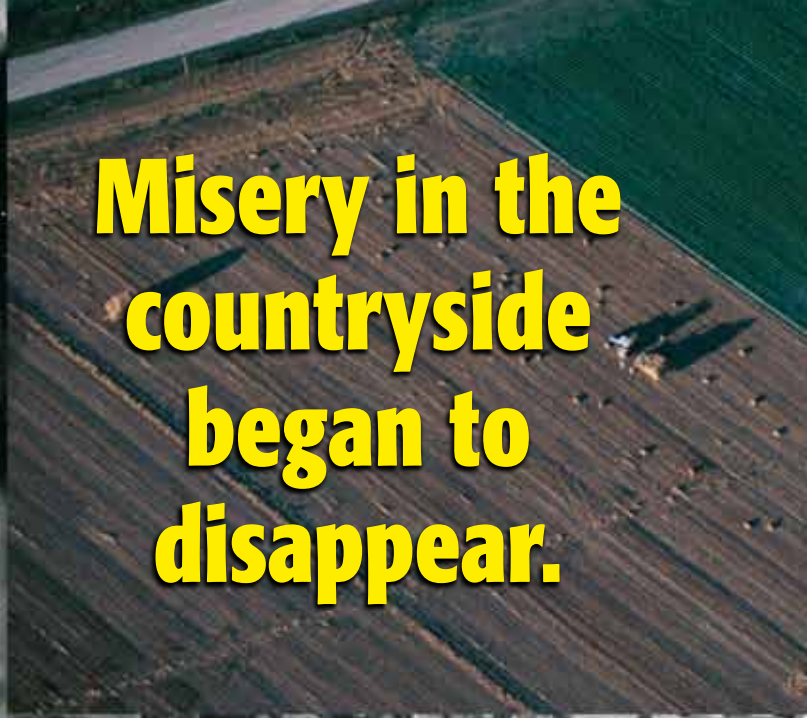
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May 17, 1959

Fidel Castro signs the Agrarian Reform Law at the Rebel Army Headquarters in the Sierra Maestra.

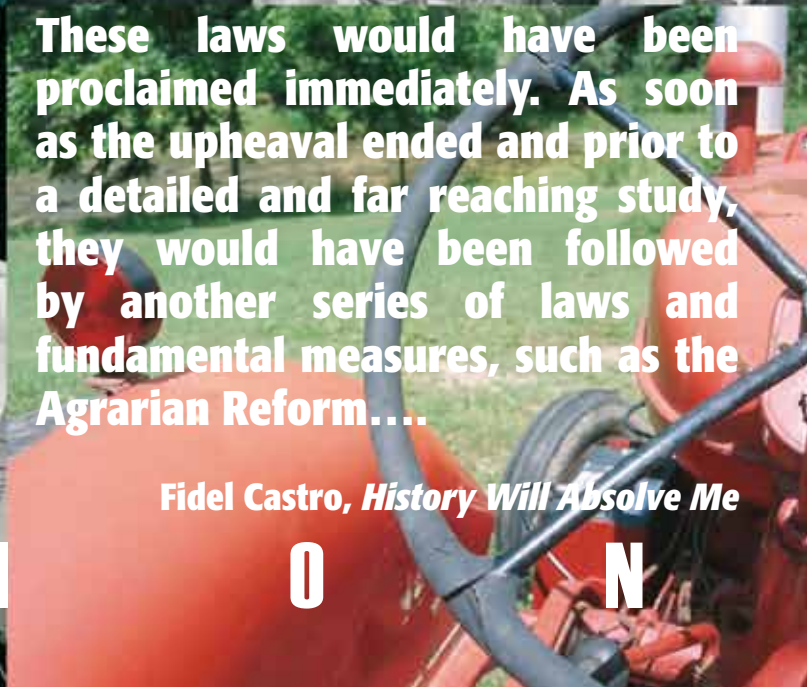
In compliance with the Agrarian Reform Law, land titles are presented to 100,000 lease-holders, sharecroppers and squatters throughout the country who had worked their whole lives, sunup to sundown, to make other people rich, without the hope of ever having more.



Misery in the countryside began to disappear.



These laws would have been proclaimed immediately. As soon as the upheaval ended and prior to a detailed and far reaching study, they would have been followed by another series of laws and fundamental measures, such as the Agrarian Reform....



Fidel Castro, *History Will Absolve Me*

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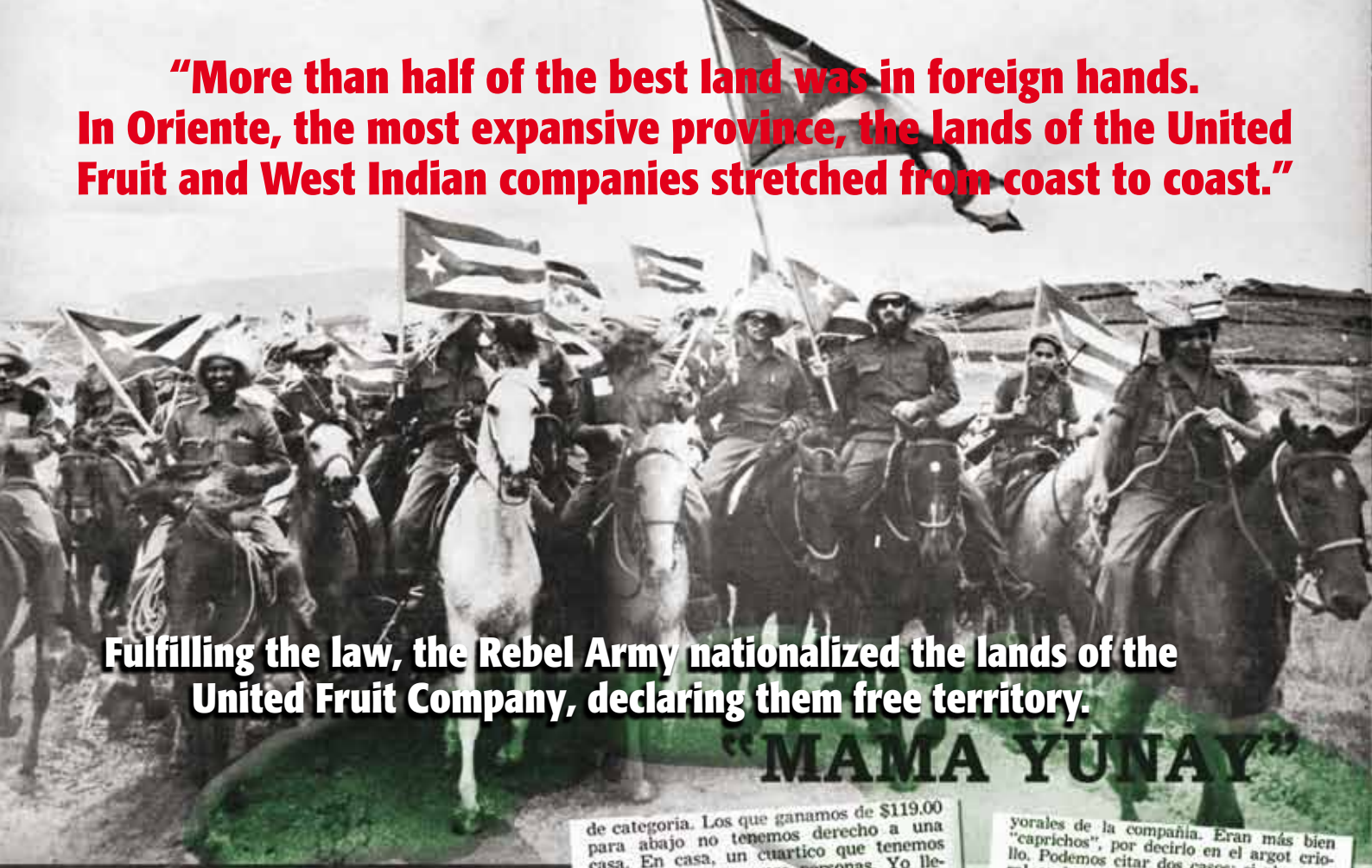
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"More than half of the best land was in foreign hands. In Oriente, the most expansive province, the lands of the United Fruit and West Indian companies stretched from coast to coast."



Fulfilling the law, the Rebel Army nationalized the lands of the United Fruit Company, declaring them free territory.

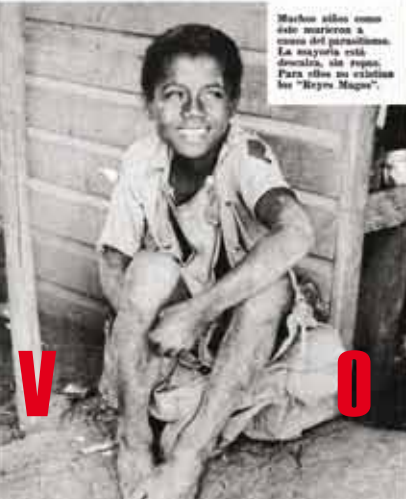
"MAMA YUNAY"

de categoría. Los que ganamos de \$119.00 para abajo no tenemos derecho a una casa. En casa, un cuartico que tenemos alquilado, vivimos once personas. Yo llevo diecisiete años trabajando para la "Yunai". ¿Por qué no van por los barracones? En el recorrido encontramos a Diego

yorales de la compañía. Eran más bien "caprichos", por decirlo en el argot criollo. Podemos citar dos casos: si al mayoral se le antojaba decir que fulano era "muy lento en el corte", o que "zutano, que tiene seis hijos, el año pasado quedó adeudando cierta cantidad", pues, aunque se murieran de hambre, no tenían más derecho que a unos centavos semanales de crédito. Nunca más de dos pesos. Para "Mamá Yunai" eran estas "medidas de tipo económico". Los mejores sueldos de esta empresa extranjera lo dis-



Este es uno de los tantos barracones de la United Fruit Company en Oriente.



Muchos niños como este murieron a causa del parasitismo. La mayoría está descalza, sin ropa. Para ellos no existen los "Reyes Magos".



En las nuevas masas de "tiempo muerto" esta familia sólo tenía derecho a unos centavos de crédito. ¿Se morían de hambre?





TIENDA DEL PUEBLO

En estas "tiendas del pueblo" pueden adquirir los artículos necesarios para el mantenimiento de su hogar al más bajo costo.

Cooperatives are created throughout the country; development zones, people's stores where farmers obtain, on credit without interest, food, clothing, shoes and toys for their children.

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July 14: Child mendicacy is prohibited in every form. Fidel Castro organizes a program for rehabilitation of minors and creates a company for eradicating that vice. The U.S. mafia, which controlled the casinos and other dirty businesses, is expelled from Cuba. In its July 14th session, the revolutionary government approved the necessary credits for developing a child protection program. Thousands of abandoned children, shoe-shiners, street vendors, and beggars, began to leave the streets and go to school. During that first year of the Revolution, begging, prostitution, gambling, drugs, all blights on society, suddenly stopped skyrocketing, and it became clear to analysts that their total eradication was a question of time, and a brief one to be sure. From then on, no child in Cuba would be obliged to work.

July 29: The Ministry of Education reports the creation of 3,000 rural schools. It is decided to reduce the Presidential Palace budget by half, and to set price ceilings for textbooks.

July 30: The Council of Ministers passes Law No. 479, which establishes price cuts of 25% to 35% for textbooks for elementary, secondary and professional education.

August 19: The Council of Ministers passes Law No. 502, via which electricity rates are cut by 30% to 48%.



August 27: The First National Congress on Rural Education opens. Prime Minister Fidel Castro proposes the creation of 10,000 rural classrooms.



September 14: The Rebel Army officially hands over the facilities of the Columbia military base to the Ministry of Education. It is the first fortress to be made into a school, and from then on is called the Ciudad Libertad school complex.



Sixty-nine garrisons of the former dictatorship's army are converted into schools over the next months, with a capacity for 40,000 children.



“The happiest people are those with the best-educated children, in the instruction of ideas and in the guidance of sentiments.”
“An educated people always will be strong and free.”

With these quotes from José Martí, Fidel Castro explained, in *History Will Absolve Me*, the significance that the Moncada attackers placed on education, and affirmed that a revolutionary government, with the support of the people and of the nation, would carry out comprehensive education reform.



R E V O L

The Ciudad Libertad complex, the first garrison converted into a school

September 14, 1959

This is the most beautiful act of the Revolution

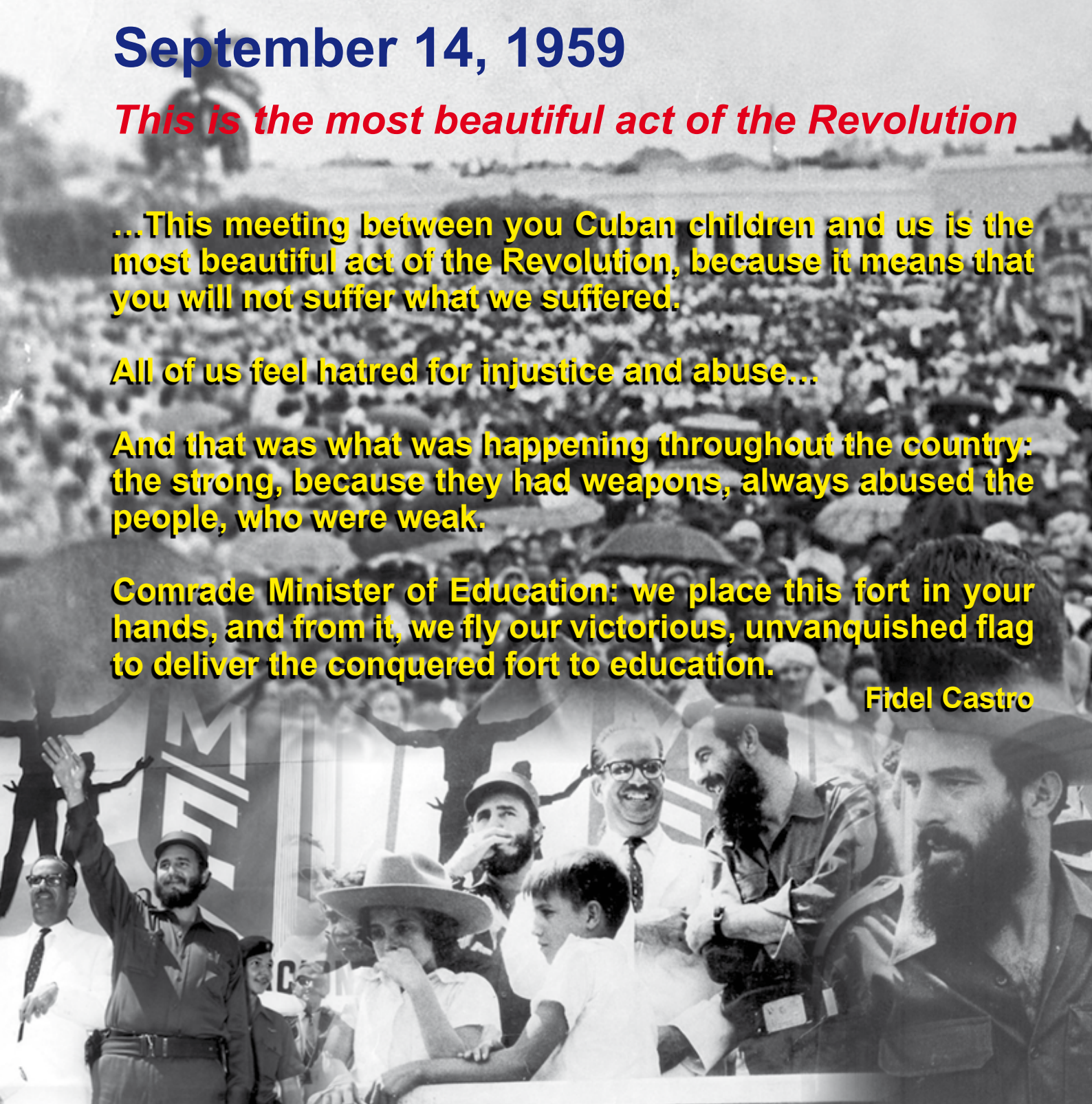
...This meeting between you Cuban children and us is the most beautiful act of the Revolution, because it means that you will not suffer what we suffered.

All of us feel hatred for injustice and abuse...

And that was what was happening throughout the country: the strong, because they had weapons, always abused the people, who were weak.

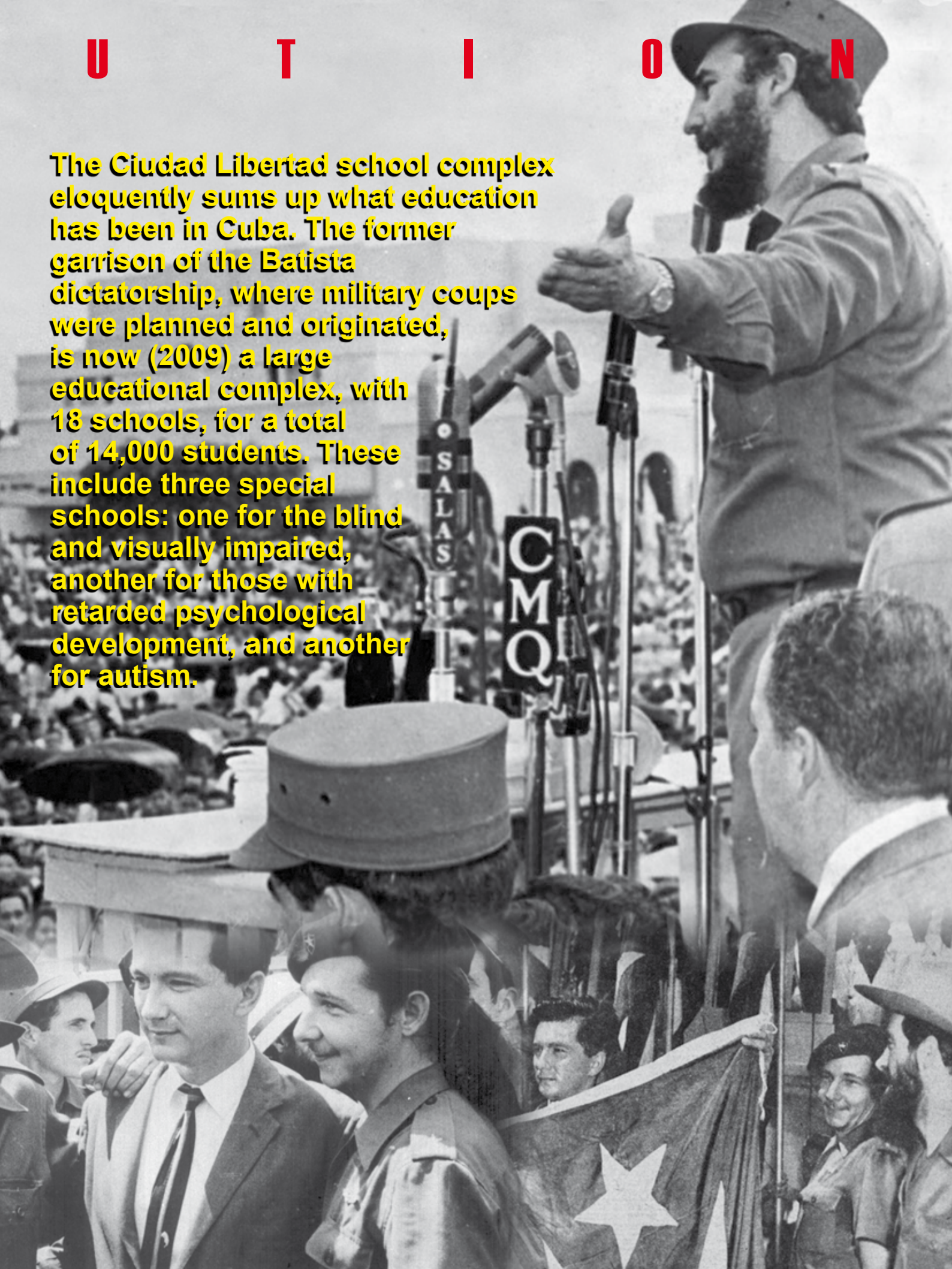
Comrade Minister of Education: we place this fort in your hands, and from it, we fly our victorious, unvanquished flag to deliver the conquered fort to education.

Fidel Castro



U T I O N

The Ciudad Libertad school complex eloquently sums up what education has been in Cuba. The former garrison of the Batista dictatorship, where military coups were planned and originated, is now (2009) a large educational complex, with 18 schools, for a total of 14,000 students. These include three special schools: one for the blind and visually impaired, another for those with retarded psychological development, and another for autism.



R E V O L

The handover of the Moncada

“The Revolution’s most glorious battle won.”

“Today we have taken the fortress, today we have taken that fortress, because today we have made it into a center of learning; today we have really won this battle.... The most beautiful battles are not the ones waged in the mountains, the most beautiful battles are these.”

Raúl Castro

In just one day, in December 1959, ten thousand new classrooms were opened; that year, school enrollment rose to more than 90% for 6-to-12 year olds.

U T I O N

**“Impossible to overthrow
a government that turns
fortresses into schools.”**

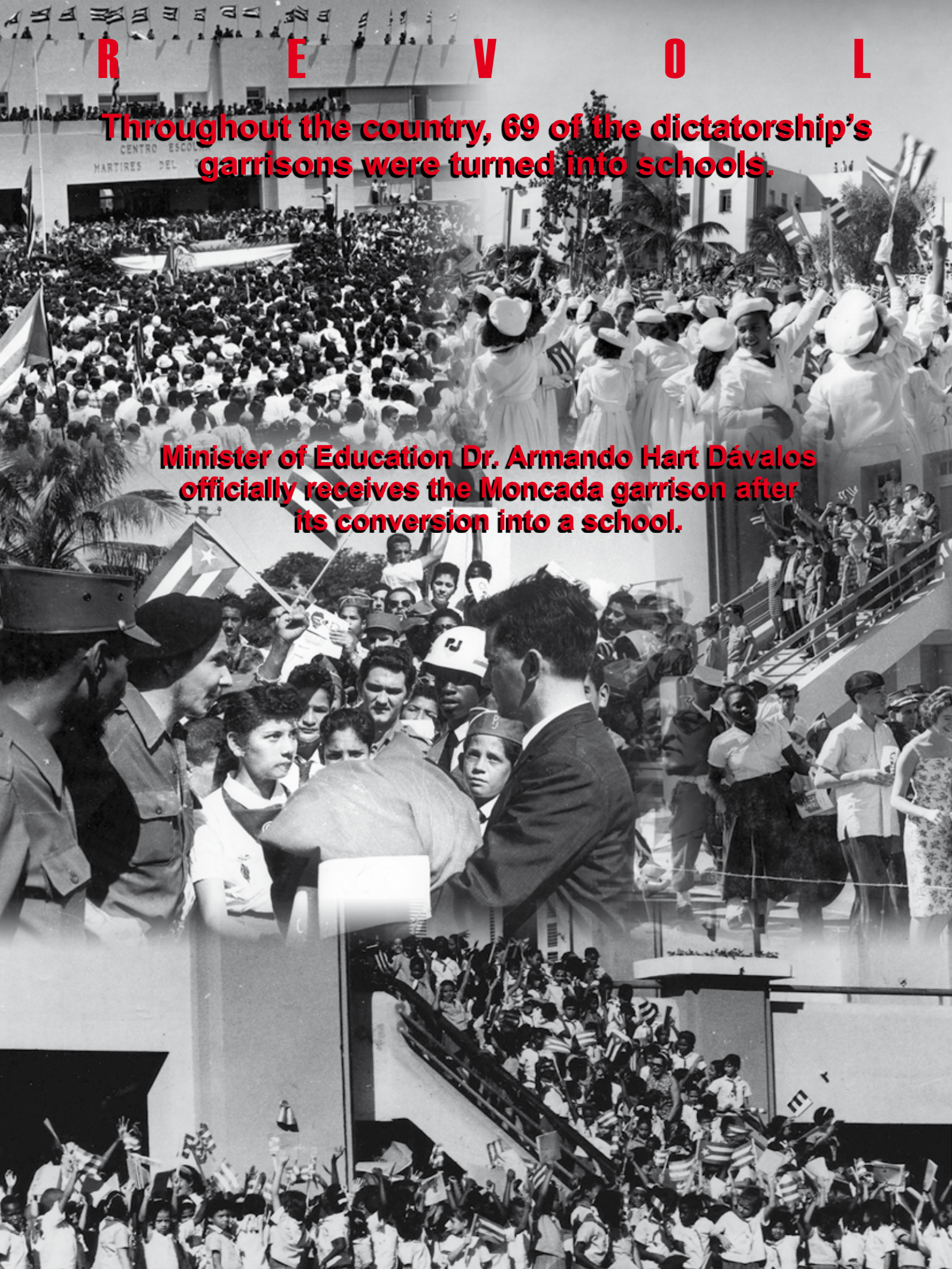
Fidel Castro



R E V O L

Throughout the country, 69 of the dictatorship's garrisons were turned into schools.

Minister of Education Dr. Armando Hart Dávalos officially receives the Moncada garrison after its conversion into a school.



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**Commander
of the Revolution
Raúl Castro holds up
the daughter of the
revolutionary martyr
José Luis Tasende.**



RAUL CASTRO

“I remember seven years ago, when we left Havana for the attack on the Moncada garrison, a beloved compañero who at that time was my immediate superior. In making the trip together and later receiving the final instructions from Fidel, that compañero, whose name was José Luis Tasende, moments before leaving for the frontal attack on what until recently was that feared fortress, told me, remembering the infant daughter he had left behind in her crib in Havana: ‘If I die, take care of my daughter.’”

At that moment, Commander Raúl Castro took the little girl into his arms, and addressing her and the Moncada garrison, now the Ciudad Libertad school complex, said:

“And today Temita, look at your father’s work!”

**Soon after
this photo was
taken, José
Luis Tasende,
a wounded
prisoner, was
tortured and
murdered.**

R E V O L

Sierra Maestra

Camilo Cienfuegos Educational Complex

Convened by Commander Ernesto Che Guevara, a massive day of voluntary work was held on November 23, 1959 in Caney de las Mercedes, to begin the construction of the Camilo Cienfuegos Educational Complex, which provided scholarships for one school-age child from each rural family in the Sierra Maestra.

The first change I noticed after the triumph of the Revolution was the opening of a little school in Aguacate and the news that an educational complex was being built that would bear the name of Camilo Cienfuegos. Today I see these developments as if it were my very own January 1st. In the beginning, they chose one child from each family to go to the complex, in Las Mercedes, in the foothills of the Sierra Maestra, and I was the one who went.

Nelson Domínguez
Painter, engraver and cartoonist

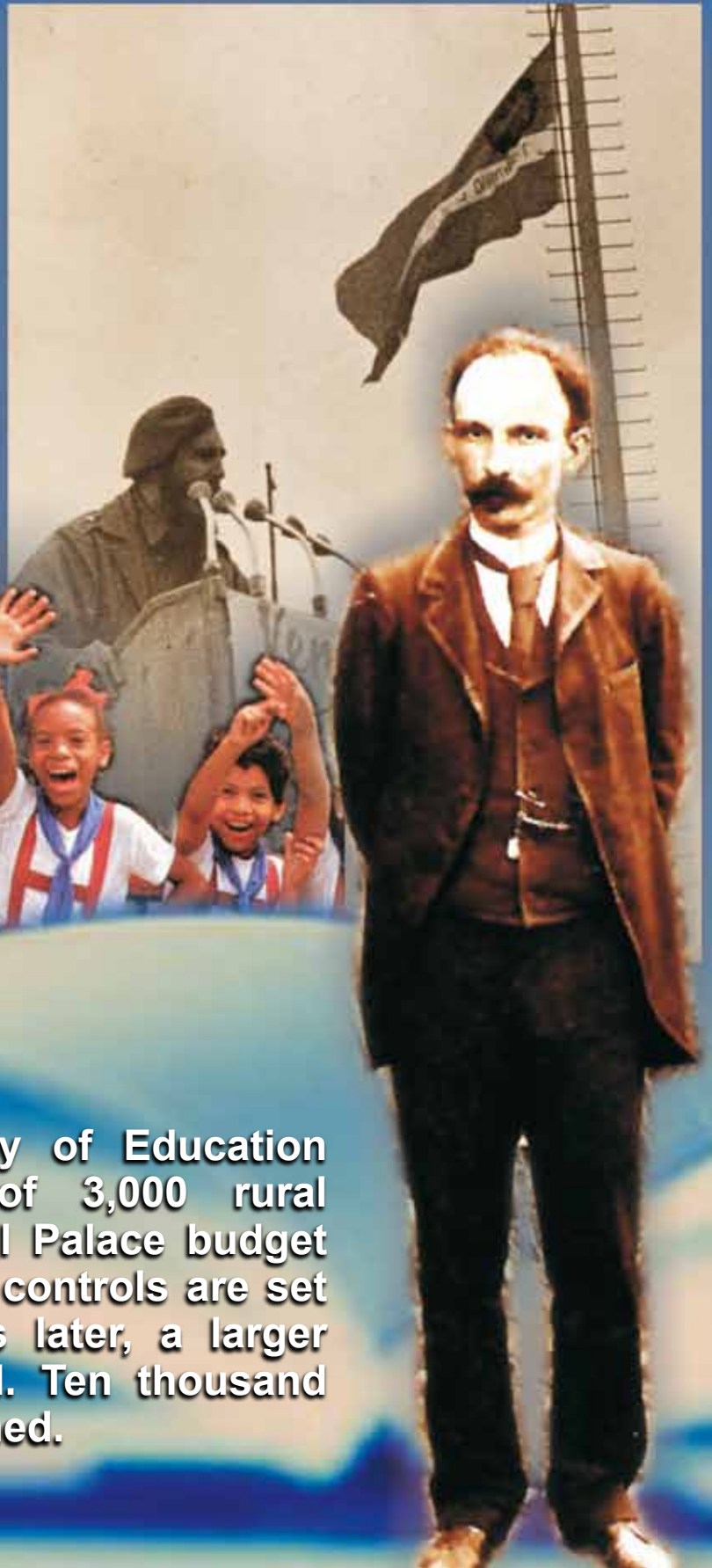
U T I O N



“THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WITH THE BEST-EDUCATED CHILDREN, IN THE INSTRUCTION OF IDEAS AND THE GUIDANCE OF SENTIMENTS.”

“AN EDUCATED PEOPLE ALWAYS WILL BE STRONG AND FREE.”

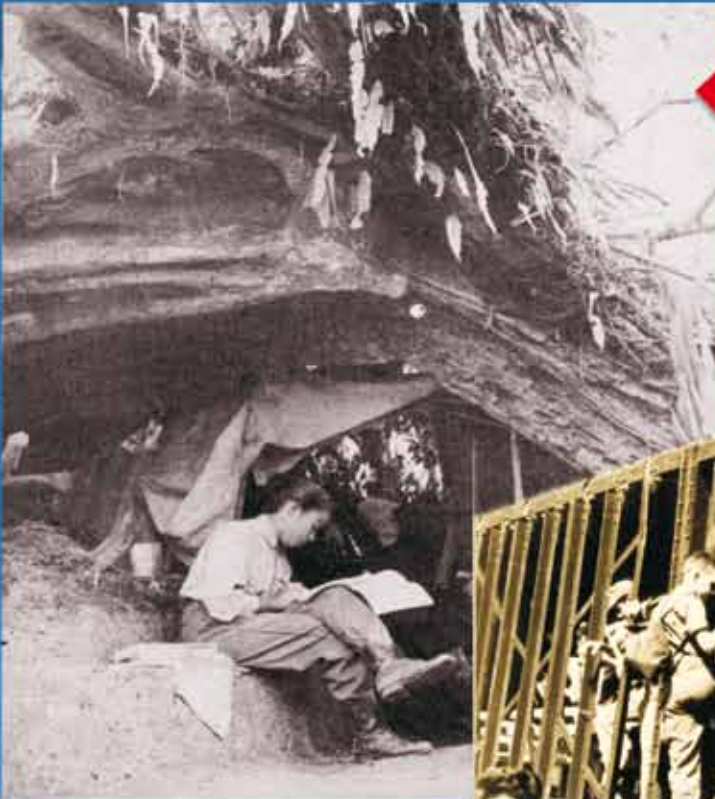
With these quotes from Jose Martí in *History Will Absolve Me*, Fidel Castro explained the significance that the Moncada combatants placed on education, and affirmed that a revolutionary government, with the support of the people and the backing of the nation, would carry out comprehensive education reform.



July 29, 1959: The Ministry of Education announces the creation of 3,000 rural classrooms. The Presidential Palace budget is slashed in half, and price controls are set for textbooks. A few weeks later, a larger education budget is passed. Ten thousand rural classrooms will be opened.



EDUCATION REACHED THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY. Brigades of volunteer teachers were formed. About 6,000 high school students from the capital and other cities spent four months in the Sierra Maestra as part of a training program to adapt to the difficult living conditions of the mountains: hiking, cold and rainy weather, sleeping outdoors. The last test consisted of climbing to Turquino Peak three times. Their final destination: the farthest, most forgotten corners of the country.



Today, under an improvised tent, she must prepare tomorrow's lesson.



A volunteer teacher scrubs her clothing in the cool waters of a mountain river.

School comes to the Mountains

They had never seen **THE FLAG**



One of the first revolutionary measures was the generalization of education. In just one day, in December 1959, ten thousand new classrooms were opened. School enrollment that year reached more than 90% for children aged 6 to 12.



Beginning January 1, 1959, education had basic principles that distinguish and sustain it: A mass character. A right and duty of all, regardless of age, race or creed.



Rural children are transferred from their old school, a ramshackle bohío, to this modern building, one of the many rural schools built. The Revolution has created more than 11,000 new rural classrooms, almost as many as were created since the start of the century by the previous governments.





Absolutely free, guaranteeing education at every level and type of learning; an extensive system of scholarships and many possibilities for free education for workers.



On June 6, 1961, the Education Nationalization Law was passed, declaring all education provided by the state to be public and free of charge, as a nontransferable duty and right of all citizens without distinction or privileges.



Children studying. New methods, new programs. The Education Reform advances. The National Education System is becoming consolidated.

Cuba magazine, 1960



Children at a new school eat lunch in one of the new modern public cafeterias.

Nothing is more imp

The education provided during childhood and adolescence in Cuba seeks to preserve and improve their right to survival, development, protection and participation.



Important than a child

THE MONCADA PROGRAM WAS THE FIRST SOCIAL PROJECT OF THE REVOLUTION AS OF JANUARY 1, 1959, AIMED AT ELIMINATING MISERY, BEGGING, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INEQUALITY, AND PROMOTING A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS.



THE
MONCADA
PROMISE FULFILLED



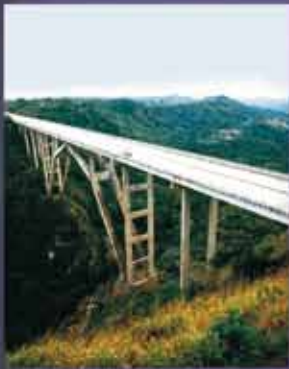
CUBA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, PART OF ITS POLICIES AND PRACTICES SINCE 1959.



September 25: The artistic group Danza Contemporánea de Cuba is created.



As he toured the country non-stop, Fidel ordered the construction of roads and highways in isolated areas, guided the first steps of what would be the rural medical service, and promoted national tourism; he founded the National Printing Company, the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry, and the National Institute of the Tourism Industry, and he forbade the construction of monuments, exhibition of portraits in public offices, or placement of plaques dedicated to living national figures.



September 25: Fidel visits the province of Matanzas, making a stop with those accompanying him — including U.S. writer Waldo Frank — on Bacunayagua Bridge, a monumental work for that era. Completed by the revolutionary government.



September 26: Fidel tours several sites in Matanzas province and then goes to Zapata Swamp. A total of 3,500 volunteer teachers organized into the Frank País Vanguard Teachers' Brigades head into the countryside.



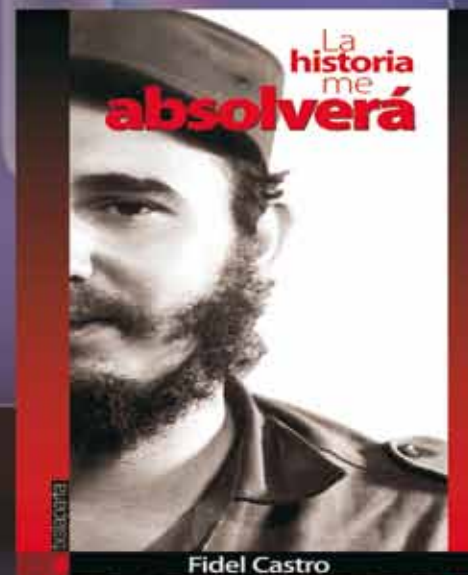
November 23: In Caney de las Mercedes, in the foothills of the Sierra Maestra, a massive day of volunteer work is organized to kick off the construction of the Camilo Cienfuegos Educational Complex. From each bohío in the Sierra Maestra, one child is selected to board at the school.

December 22: Law No. 667 extends social security to self-employed and domestic workers, until then not covered by social security. The law also sets the benefits minimum at 40 pesos monthly.

December 23: Law No. 680, foundations and guiding regulations of the Comprehensive Education Reform in Cuba.

School was made mandatory for children until the age of 12 and sixth grade.

An explosion of social welfare projects throughout the country, the start of the industrialization process, the righteous Agrarian Reform Law, the rise in education and public health services, and the elimination of the plunder of the nation's treasury and of corruption; this resulted in the disappearance of unemployment that same year, 1959. Cubans' purchasing power rises.



**The predictions
contained
in History Will
Absolve Me began to be
fulfilled.**

Rural Medical Service

IN 1959, A CONTINGENT OF RURAL DOCTORS WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE HEALING AND PREVENTIVE CARE FOR THE FIRST TIME TO CUBA'S HISTORICALLY FORGOTTEN RURAL POPULATION



A DEPARASITIZATION AND VACCINATION PROGRAM WAS BEGUN WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION.



Rural Medical Service

The infant mortality rate of 60 per 1,000 live births quickly began to fall; thousands of children whose destiny would have been death if the Revolution had not triumphed discover a different world.



Visit by rural doctor to a farmer's home.



Now it doesn't matter where they're born: the plains, forest or mountains,
CHILDREN ARE HAPPY!



In the morning, the two doctors saw more than 70 cases. And this afternoon, Dr. Cura, the one who always makes the visits, went to more than 10 bohíos.



Doctor Cura examines a child in his humble hammock. The diagnosis: parasites.

Now he won't die.

In 21 days, we have seen about 700 cases. The majority are parasites. Anemia diagnoses are also frequent, what they call "weakness in the blood."

THE POSTGRADUATES IN THE MOUNTAINS

Medicina Rural Revolucionaria



¿QUEN LLAMARÍA A ESTO "EL PARASITO"?

—La verdad es que quien lo puso a eso fue el Dr. Cura. Él mismo lo puso. Y no es que sea un parásito, pero es un niño que vive en condiciones de pobreza y que necesita atención médica.

En el momento del doctor Cura ya no hay que esperar, ya se va curando. En una semana de atención, que el niño tiene una buena atención médica en el centro de salud, ya se va curando.

Y cuando se va curando de la anemia, que es una anemia por deficiencia de hierro, ya se va curando de la anemia.

El niño ya está bien, ya se va curando. Y cuando se va curando de la anemia, ya se va curando de la anemia.

Los doctores Felipe Cura y Wilson Cárdenas son los que están en el centro de salud, ya se va curando de la anemia.

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The umbilical cord has not yet been cut. The baby has just come into the world. In the future, when he is older, he will tell his little friends with pride: "When my mom had me, a doctor of the Revolution named Felipe helped her." By then, children will no longer be born in deplorable conditions.

Cuba magazine, 1960

REVOLUTION

In just 10 years of the Revolution, 47 rural
Now, nobody stole from the budget or wasted money



Lino Álvarez Rural Hospital in Realengo 18.



The Juan Manuel Márquez rural hospital stands in the mountains of Guisa, in the Victorino area, close to where the Desembarco del Granma Cooperative members would build their homes.



The bright spot in Victorino: the Juan Manuel Márquez Rural Hospital.

hospitals and 56 medical clinics were built.
they on sumptuous works for the benefit of a few.



1960: the National Health System is created.



A garrison of the dictatorship, symbol of repression and death, converted into a hospital where the new generations are born, a song to life.



More than 1,000 medical consultations monthly.
Universal and free access to health services.

REVOLUTION

December 24: Fidel Castro has dinner in the most forgotten, poorest place in the country, where, like everywhere else, everything began to change: Zapata Swamp.

In that short amount of time, the Revolution has built causeways over the water, the basis of the subsequent development of a project that not only seemed like a dream, but an awakening from nightmare.

Cooperatives are created, and prices for charcoal, wood and crocodile quickly increase. People's stores are opened. For the first time, charcoal makers wore shoes, dressed, and ate like human beings.

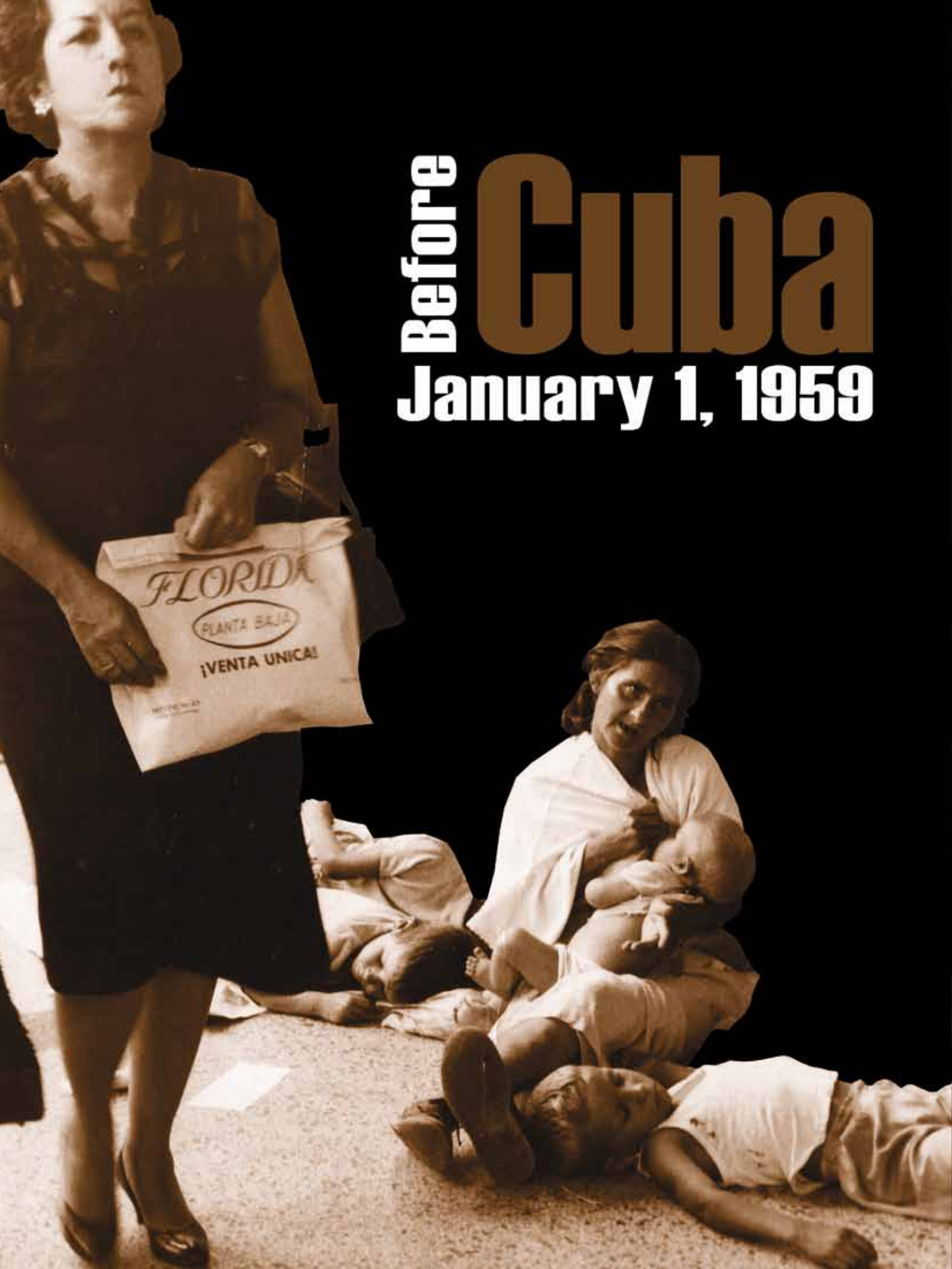
Schools were opened in almost all the villages. The thousands of children who lived on the Zapata Peninsula began to receive elementary education. Filters for the water, hygiene instructions to prevent disease, the awarding of scholarships, rural transport, and health services were all new words for the people of Zapata Swamp. Late at night on that 24th of December, a charcoal maker dedicated a few improvised verses to Fidel. One of them went:

***Now we have a road
thanks to God and to Fidel,
women no longer die
from childbirth anymore.
With your matchless valor,
thank you, Fidel, Commander,
you were the one who freed us
from that infernal scourge.***

***And that's how the first year of the
Revolution ended.***

Before Cuba

January 1, 1959











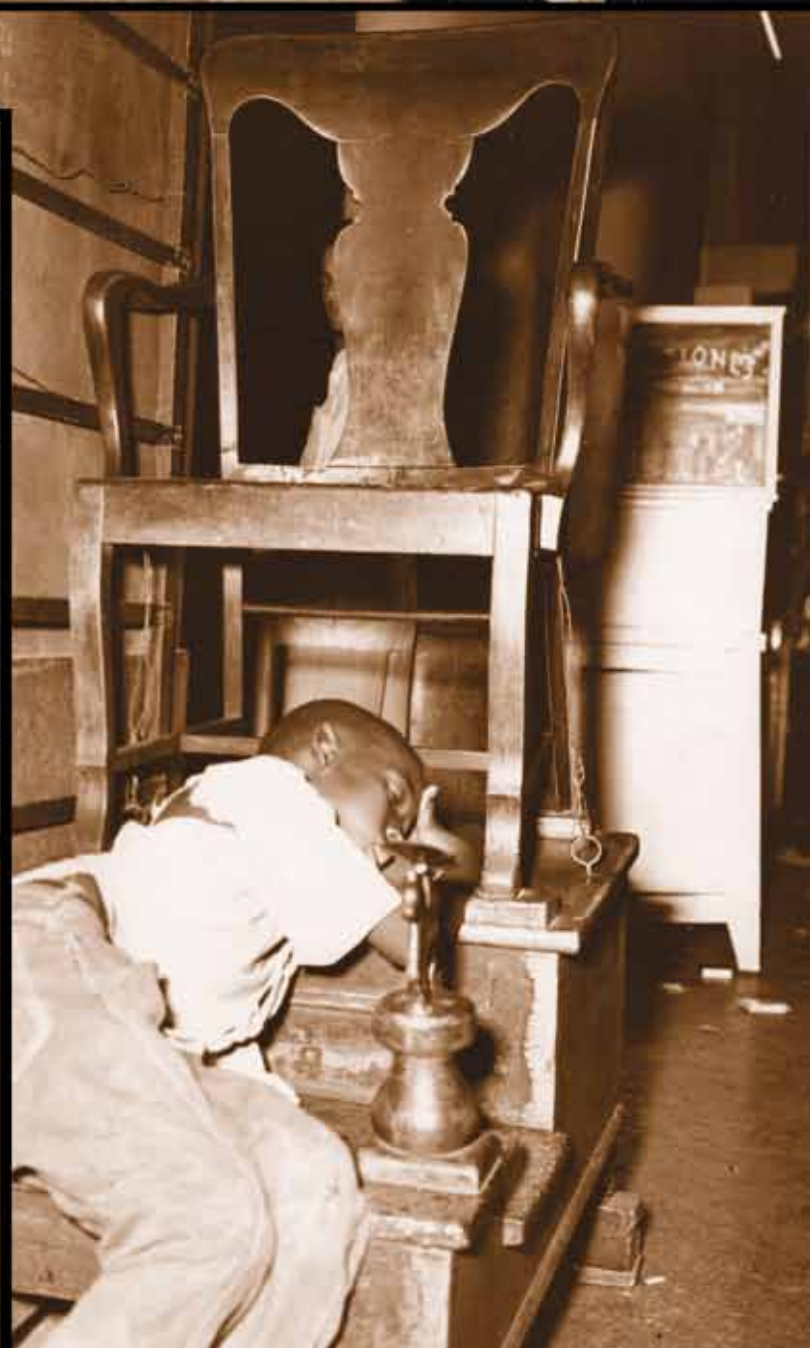






















What does it mean to be a BATISTA SUPPORTER?

It is a person who follows and worships the work of the bloodthirsty thief Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar



Rafael Díaz-Balart is, for many reasons, a minor figure in the arbitrary, muddy, and blood-soaked picture of the defeated dictatorship. He is a two-dimensional sub-character that has no substance or significance. Like so many others, he tirelessly repeated the slogans heard over the dictatorship's speakers, had a secondary role in the apparatus of fraud, and dishonored Cuba's young people by pretending to represent them. If he is included here, it is because he was on the frontline of the professional adulators, always ready to vociferate in the footlights of despotism.

Bohemia magazine, January 18, 1959

Kuquine was visited yesterday by the youth groups of the parties...to inform General Batista of the trip they propose doing from Banes, General Batista's birthplace, to the Presidential Palace, carrying a symbolic torch throughout the island to deliver it to the president... The commission included Rafael Díaz-Balart and others.





On January 1, 1953, Batista and his closest cronies celebrated the coming of the New Year. Behind the dictator, complacent, is Rafael Díaz-Balart, father of Lincoln and Mario Díaz-Balart, the right-wing extremist Florida legislators who currently control the media and sponsor terrorism against Cuba.



TO FORGE A PUBLIC IMAGE, HE NEVER MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE HIS PICTURE TAKEN WITH THE DICTATOR AND THE REGIME'S MOST BLOODTHIRSTY POLICE OFFICIALS.



Together with the bloodthirsty Ugalde Carrillo and Colonel Orlando Piedra.

Together with the ringleader of the (Rolando M.) "Masferrer Tigers".



His son, Congressman Lincoln Díaz-Balart, openly praises the man who was — to cite just one U.S. assessment — “one of the bloodiest and most corrupt dictators of the Americas.” (Documentary on the mafia and Cuba, produced and broadcast on the History Channel)

Today, it is impossible to even criticize Batista in the Miami mass media, controlled by more than a few Batista supporters and their descendants. In their Coral Gables mansions, they celebrate dates when the country saw bloodshed. The Díaz-Balart congressmen have publicly praised the work of the Batista dictatorship, and now there is no argument over who was the godfather at the baptism of the Republican congressman for Florida, Lincoln Díaz-Balart.

**THESE ARE THE SAME INDIVIDUALS WHO
WANT TO RETURN TO CUBA AND TAKE
POWER.**



JANUARY 14, 2001: A MASS HELD AT SAN JUAN BOSCO CHURCH IN MIAMI TO HONOR THE FORMER DICTATOR FULGENCIO BATISTA ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH.

WHAT WE CANNOT FORGET



Lincoln Díaz-Balart,
together with his fellow
congress member Ileana
Ros-Lehtinen, when the
boy Elián González was
held kidnapped in Miami,
later returned to his
father after a U.S.
Supreme
Court decision.



FOR THIS REASON, REVOLUTION

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....What fertilization, sweeping away the innumerable frustrations, the unspeakable humiliations, the detailed nightmares! Other combats then began, but from then on the evolution had roots, coherence, identity. The blood has been accepted, the sun of the living and the dead shines demanding in the middle of it all. **"And everything that seemed impossible was possible."**

Cintio Vitier



EDITORIAL
 *Capitán San Luis*

