

Execution of Batista Followers Expected To Rise Steadily

Little Time Needed To Reach Verdict By Court in Cuba

By ANDRES LOPEZ
Colon, Matanzas Province, Cuba—(UPI)—Cuban revolutionary justice allows plenty of time for testimony but needs only minutes to reach a verdict.

This was the pattern in Monday's trial of three former Batista soldiers on charges they were responsible for 20 to 30 deaths in this sugar town 45 miles east of the provincial capital of Matanzas.

A five-man tribunal headed by Capt. Julio Chaviano, local commandant of the July 26th Movement, convened at 4 p.m. at a rural guard headquarters building.

In addition to Chaviano, a young Castro guerrilla veteran, the tribunal consisted of two other members of the rebel movement—a militiaman and a civilian member of the rebel underground.

Charged With War Crimes

The tribunal sat behind a bare wooden table holding documents relating to the alleged "war crimes" of the accused.

On trial were former Army Capt. Isidoro Lopez, Sgt. Juan Leon and a private soldier, Segundo Napoles, who sat on folding wooden chairs when not addressing the court.

The proceedings continued for four hours, with Chaviano reading the charge sheets accumulated during an investigation and with the accused rising to argue their defense.

At one point Leonard vigorously disputed his former commanding officers' assertions to the court.

The press and witnesses were permitted to attend the trial but residents of the area were excluded and could only peer in through the dusty windows.

Once the long testimony was finished Chaviano cleared the court and the accused men were returned to their cells. Five minutes later the verdict was ready and the men were brought again into the courtroom.

Sentenced To Be Shot

Chaviano read the verdict: "Guilty" and sentenced them to be shot. He then saluted Lopez who returned the salute, wheeled and again was sent to his cell.

The rebels sent a Roman Catholic priest Fr. Juan Langlois of Montreal, into Lopez' cell where he spent several minutes hearing the captain's confession.

The priest had been gone only a few minutes when shouting echoed throughout the jail. Rebel guards rushed to Lopez' cell and found him clutching his throat, gurgling and gasping.

He had tried strangling himself with a mattress string but it broke. The rebels conducted him to a hospital.

The execution must await approval of the tribunal's sentence by the provincial military commandant, William Galves, in Matanzas.

But firing squads may be heard in Colon before sundown.

Several Thousand Due for Castro Justice in Cuba

Havana—(UPI)—Rebel sources said today "several thousand" Batista men faced revolutionary justice throughout Cuba. It was certain the death toll would rise far above the 121 known formal and informal executions reported since Jan. 1.

The busiest firing squads were reported in Santiago, capital of the eastern province of Oriente, which was the scene of the bloodiest repressions carried out by followers of ex-President Fulgencio Batista.

Rebels in Santiago commanded by Raul Castro, brother of the revolutionary leader, have arrested at least 320 persons. Seventy of them faced a mass trial and 14 were executed immediately. The remaining 56 are to die in small groups.

Secret Executions

In addition, 52 formal executions after a summary trial have been reported since Jan. 1 in the cities of Matanzas, Manzanillo, Camaguey, Pinar Del Rio and Santa Clara. Lengthening the list are 15 executions reported to have occurred secretly in Cabana Fortress in Havana.

In addition 40 persons were reported "informally" executed by zealous rebels in the early hours of victory before the rebel command gained control over the over-zealous civilians. At least 20 of the killings were reported in Havana.

Incidents of rebel over-zealousness still were cropping up. In Havana a family demanded Monday that the government apprehend and punish rebels responsible for the Saturday night assassination of university professor Rafael Escalona.

In a signed statement a dozen members of Escalona's family said authorities took the professor at 8 p.m. to a police station and that his corpse was delivered from there to a morgue with seven bullet-holes in his chest, neck and face.

Mistaken Identity

They identified Escalona as an "outstanding, militant revolutionary" and speculated the rebels took him for Chuchifco Cardenas, henchman of hated Batista San. Rolando Masferrer. Many of Masferrer's group already have met their death.

Elsewhere other types of irregular shootings were reported: a 16-year-old militiaman killed a teen-age girl bystander in Santa Clara when he accidentally discharged his rifle; a prisoner being escorted to jail was shot by a militiaman in Cienfuegos; a 21-year-old Santa Clara youth was wounded by stray bullets in a suburban gunfight.

Thus far most of the rebel "war crime" trials have taken place in the battle-torn provinces, but they are to spread to Havana this week. Havana police chief Efigenio Almeida said trials would begin this week for many of the 1,200 seized in the early hours of Jan. 1.

Martin To Keep Chauffeured Auto

Washington—(UPI)—Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (R-Mass.) 74, ousted as GOP House leader, will be able to keep his chauffeur-driven limousine, after all.

The House Monday speedily approved a resolution to that effect.

It was sponsored by Democratic Leader John W. McCormack (Mass.) and supported by the new GOP leader, Rep. Charles A. Halleck (Ind.) who defeated Martin in a contest for the leadership last Tuesday.

The action came as friends of Martin were reported about ready to organize a campaign for private contributions to finance a limousine for Martin.

Until Monday's action only three members of the House were entitled to chauffeur-driven limousines—the speaker, Democratic leader and Republican leader.

Friends said Martin was touched by the gesture and felt it would be ungracious to spurn it.

Actor's Son Pleads Guilty To Charges

Beverly Hills, Calif.—(UPI)—Edward G. Robinson Jr., pleaded guilty Monday to charges of using "abusive language" before guests in the lobby of the plush Beverly Hills Hotel.

The 25-year-old son of the famed actor was ordered to appear Feb. 10 before Municipal Judge Adolph Alexander for a probation hearing and sentencing. He was freed on \$25 bail pending the hearing.

The complaint to which Robinson pleaded guilty was amended from the original action in which he also was charged with drunkenness at the time of the incident last Nov. 21.

Dance Nets \$40 for Teens Against Polio

An after-the-game dance at the Young Men's Christian association Saturday netted \$40.35 for the "Teens Against Polio" fund drive.

Sponsored by the Theta Tau Alpha Tri-Hi-Y, Miss Charlene Highland, club president, was chairman. Adult advisor for the affair was Charles Johnson, club advisor.

TUCK WALKS OUT

London—(UPI)—Friar Tuck has walked out on Robin Hood. Actor Alexander Gauge, who plays the portly friar in a TV series, said he would return to playing "the Sidney Greenstreet type of heavy villain."

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A TIMID LITTLE LADY refused to board a plane headed for Denver unless the pilot promised her personally not to fly above an altitude of 4,000 feet. "Higher than that," she explained, "my doctor says would be more than my heart could stand."

"But my dear lady," blustered the pilot, "Denver itself is one mile high." "Then I just won't go there," decided the little lady. "I always thought Denver was on the ground."

Harry's Bar in Venice has come up with a new drink that tourists are going for in a big way. It's called the telephone cocktail. Drink two of them, and your head starts ringing.

K. M. Linhoff, of Long Beach, Calif., informs us that a crook broke into his pignen last week. "Now," he concludes mournfully, "I haven't got mahogany more."

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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Aurora, Ill.—Mayor Paul Egan, at a City Council meeting where he traded punches and lost to the sergeant-at-arms after the council voted to remove Egan from the meeting: "I will recognize a motion to adjourn and that's all."

Dallas, Tex.—Evangelist Billy Graham, on cancelling a speech scheduled for Monday night to fly to Minnesota for treatment of an eye ailment: "After the luncheon speech today, I was greatly fired and felt it probably best to cancel the scheduled speech."

Columbus, Ohio—Michael V. DiSalle, former federal price stabilizer, on being sworn in as Ohio's 53th governor: "I can hardly believe it is happening to me."

Lake Forest, Ill.—Adlai E. Stevenson, chiding the United States for its complacency in the face of Soviet progress: "In our fat, dumb, happy complacency, we assume we can't lose. We assume the right won't fail."

Washington—Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) in introducing a joint resolution to repeal the constitutional amendment which limits presidents to two terms: "Time has proven how sorry a mistake this amendment is. The country is living with a lame-duck president who in his second term—has lost much of the political power essential to him for leadership."

Los Angeles, Calif.—Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan, shaking hands with actor Marlon Brandon on a movie set: "You're a strong man. When I shake hands with you I feel like a movie star too."

New York—Mrs. Frances Chionchio, when her kidnapped daughter was returned and she held the child for the first time: "My baby! My baby! God has returned you!"

ROGUE RIVER Club Meeting Held

By MRS. MYRTLE WHIPPLE

Rogue River—The Laurel Garden club met Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the home of Mrs. Jack Demory, with Mrs. C. Woodward as co-hostess.

There were 23 members present and guests were Mrs. Everett Goodnight and Mrs. Willis Hoar. A dessert lunch was served at 1 p.m.

The meeting opened by the chaplain, Mrs. Victor Friden, giving a prayer and a salute of the flag was led by Mrs. Jim Whipple.

Members welcomed Mrs. Claud Willoughby who has been ill for so long as well as Mrs. Harry Condray and Mrs. Ed Burkett, who have been unable to attend for some time.

The regular business was conducted and Mrs. Harold Dunham gave a talk on birds while Mrs. William White gave a report on conservation.

Plans were made for a card party on Feb. 12 and a food sale to be held March 28.

President Mrs. Henry Bonney invited members to a lunch at her home Wednesday, Jan. 14, at which time Mrs. Esther Shock will show the pictures which she took while in Hawaii.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Henry Bonney Feb. 4.

Mrs. Iza Forcyth returned Tuesday evening from several weeks' visit with her son, Tom Webb, and family in San Diego, Calif.

Ben Golding and family of Eugene spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Golding, of Rogue River.

Walter Howell and family of Toledo, Ore., were guests over night Saturday of Tom Wilson and Ambre Blayden. Mr. Howell is a nephew of Mrs. Blayden.

Word has been received from Paul Woods of Lake Grove, Ore., of the death of his wife, Gladys, on Nov. 25.

Mrs. Woods was raised in Rogue River and was the daughter of the late Sam Sandry.

Mrs. Wood is survived by her husband, Paul, one son, Don Woods, and by one sister, Mrs. Dorris Grim, of Bismarck, N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Braggington of Walport, Ore., were

1959 Commodity Price Picture Shows Influences

New York—(UPI)—A bifocal view of the 1959 commodity price picture reveals opposing influences separating domestic items from important materials.

Domestic commodities—like grains and cotton—will respond to what the new Congress may decide on price supports, production controls and the freer distribution of surplus commodities overseas.

Recurring tensions in the Formosa Straits, Berlin, the Middle East, Africa and the Orient will have an effect on rubber, wool, burlap, platinum, copper and other non-ferrous metals.

Watch-Point

Russia's policy of unloading surplus stocks will be a sensitive watch-point. Soviet dumping raised hob with platinum and aluminum in 1958 and temporarily demoralized the tin market in early September.

Coffee and cocoa will hinge on the ability of Brazil and Africa to maintain minimum export prices in face of mounting stocks and a deteriorating currency. Latin American countries agreed on a coffee price stabilizing plan, but the refusal to go along by other producers, particularly Africa cast shadows on the future of the plan.

Political turmoil in Cuba must be reckoned with in analyzing sugar price prospects. India's ability to maintain "floor" prices on burlap and other jute products will affect packers of grain, flour, feed, seed, as well as rug and carpet manufacturers and linoleum makers.

Started on Upgrade

Despite the blurred overall picture in 1958, commodity prices started on an upgrade before the summer ended. The stock market boom, plus an inflationary psychology whetted by the election outcome and an inventory replenishment move, all had a bullish effect.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of 22 sensitive commodity prices in early November reached the highest point since Sept. 6, 1957. The index is more heavily weighted with industrial commodities, making it more responsive to a general business recovery.

Pelham, N.Y.—(UPI)—Dr. Holland N. Stevenson II, 72, a former pathology instructor at Johns Hopkins and Creighton universities, died Sunday after an illness of several months.

The earliest known copper-nickel alloy coins are those minted about 170 B.C. in Bactria, a Kingdom in northwest India. The country was conquered by Alexander the Great in 326 B.C.

Maidstone, England—(UPI)—Arthur King, 27, and Jonah Morris, 46, have been jailed for 30 months for burglary because they believed in advertising. Police were tipped off to the two men's operations by a painted business sign reading: "King and Morris, burglars incorporated, all kinds of work considered; breaking and entering a specialty."

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