

Santiago, Sierra Maestra Have Special Significance for Castro

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FACES OF CASTRO—The many faces of Castro. The victorious revolutionary leader is shown in profile in January, 1959, upper left; serious and intent speaking to newsmen in April, 1959, upper right; jovial and smiling during a visit to Washington, in April, 1959, lower left, and somber as he denounces the United States, lower right.

(UPI Telephoto)

Statements as Revolutionary Far Cry From 1960

Editor's note: Following is the second of three dispatches tracing the development of Castro's Cuba, from the revolutionary take-over on Jan. 1, 1959, to today's Communist-controlled dictatorship.

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Back from the bullet-marked streets of Santiago on Cuba's eastern end and the peaks of the Sierra Maestra, Both have special significance for Fidel Castro.

Castro and a handful of followers took refuge in the Sierra Maestra after a landing on the coast of Oriente province on Dec. 2, 1956, which almost ended in disaster.

From here for the next three years Castro conducted his hit-and-run guerrilla raids against the vastly superior forces of President Fulgencio Batista. Under jungle cover reached only two hours a day by the sun, he read books and, during occasional visits from newsmen, gave the vague outline of his plans of reform for Cuba.

"We are fighting for a democratic Cuba and an end to dictatorship," he told one interviewer. "You can be sure we have no animosity toward the United States and the American people."

It was a far cry from December, 1960.

Just as the mountains of Oriente province had been Castro's home, so Santiago, Oriente's largest city, had been the scene of his greatest defeat. His "July 26" movement took its name from a vain assault which he led on July 26, 1953, against the Moncada barracks in Santiago.

Then he was a young Havana university law graduate.

Returns to Santiago

So it was fitting that after his revolution was won, he should return to Santiago to announce that Moncada barracks was being converted into a school for 2,600 children.

In the blazing sun beating down upon the ceremony, some of the children fainted. But others remained, waving their paper Cuban flags and chanting replies as if to a litany:

"Where are the fortresses of the people?"

"In the people."

"Who are the friends of the children?"

"The government."

"Who are the friends of the government?"

"We are."

In the first year of his revolutionary government Castro promised the government would build 10,000 schools annually. And perhaps he believed it.

The actual results were less than five per cent of the promise.

But if a clear-cut picture of Castro has emerged in the last two years it is in his contradictions.

A priest who knew him well once said of him:

"He suffered if people were not in accord with him. When he believed he was right, he couldn't understand if people didn't agree."

"He loved applause."

In His Element

So standing in the sun before Moncada barracks, Castro was in his element. The schools still to be built were a problem for another day.

And so it was with the strip of paper torn from a pocket notebook and passed to a tobacco farmer. It was to be delivered to the central office of the agrarian reform in Havana and it read:

"I am sending you these people with their note so that

in the strip of Menendez you will build them 60 houses. Take them there and give them what they need. The houses will be paid for with the profits that are left over this year. —Fidel."

This is the man with the ready checkbook who loves applause.

Some of the houses Castro promised have been built and some of the peasants have been placed on the land they worked as virtual serfs.

If all the promises cannot be carried out, no matter. The revolution needs time.

As time has pressed harder upon Castro and his treasury dips closer to bankruptcy, his tirades against the United States have increased and his ties with the Communist nations drawn closer.

There is no clear-cut date

which may be set for the beginning of Castro's hatred for the United States.

Perhaps it stems from the United States' obvious distaste for Castro's bloodbath against his opponents. It might come from the time the United States rejected his demand that it increase Cuba's sugar quota.

It could come from the first U. S. protest against the seizure of American properties now estimated at more than one and a half billion dollars.

Perhaps it was because the United States gave shelter to thousands who fled from Cuba to the United States.

On in Earnest.

At any rate, by October, 1959, Castro was accusing the United States of "aggression" and the hate-America campaign and seizure of Ameri-

can properties was on in earnest.

And as Cuba took on more and more the shape of a totalitarian state through its agrarian and urban reform programs, so the Cuban worker found both his income and his liberties disappearing correspondingly.

His wages have been cut 35 per cent by government order. It is estimated that 19 per cent of his remaining income disappears in various taxes. Frequently he is called upon to "contribute" a day's wages to the government to-

ward the purchase of war planes and other armaments. Castro tells them how and where they may work and live.

But despite all this, there still is no doubt that Castro continues to hold the affections of Cuba's penniless. One reason may be that whatever

else Castro may have taken away, he has given them identity. When they shoulder a gun they feel they are part of the revolution.

Next: The men around Castro and his ambitions to export his revolution throughout Latin America.

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Duncan Favors Licensing Boards Setting Own Fees

Salem—UPI—A proposed bill providing state licensing boards could bypass the legislature and set fees in their individual profession with only the governor's approval has been discussed by the Legislative Fiscal Committee.

House Speaker Robert Duncan, (D-Medford), committee chairman, said this would help the legislature get its work done more simply as the many bills to consider fee increases take up considerable time each session.

Covers 18 Boards

The proposal covers 18 boards, including accountants,

barbers, dentists and funeral directors.

Freeman Holmer, state finance director, said the state has contracted for an electronic data processing machine for use starting next October in the Motor Vehicles Department. He said the legislature must provide money or the contract will be invalid.

He said feasibility studies were needed to determine if other computers would be more economical.

Some 30 legislators were on hand for the weeklong briefing on financial conditions.

Kenneth Bragg, state fiscal officer, said the best way to cope with heads of state agencies who become upset when their budgets are cut is to assure them time to tell their side of the story at sub-committee hearings.

Bragg said if an agency budget must be cut, the department head should be reassured that the committee's action is not an expression of lack of confidence but rather a determination by elected representatives "as to the program level desired."

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Services Held for Elks Lodge Members

A memorial service was held in the Medford Elks temple Sunday for the lodge members who died during the year.

Services were for Charles O. McAllen, Clayton G. Godlove, Edward Clayton Bonham, Clifford L. Howard, Joseph L. Daly, Thomas G. Bradley, Francis E. Bowman, Leo M. Cunningham, Charles A. Wing, Thomas J. Fuson, Louis N. Gentner, Byron N. Ellis, Herschel E. Morris, Col. A. H. Dudley, William N. Bates, Milton Ottoman and Ed. H. Lamport.

John Lusk played organ prelude music, and the Hedrick Junior High school chorus directed by Carroll Graber provided vocal music. Chaplain Leonard Carlson gave the invocation. Exalted Ruler Joe R. Hosick presided. Secretary Richard G. Phair read the roll call of the absent members.