

Four Years Under Fidel Castro Takes Economic Toll in Cuba



PROCLAMATION SIGNED — On Jan. 1, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and the slaves were free. Also on that day the President looked toward the New Year. There was little favorable news to consider; the Union Army was demoralized near Fredericksburg, Va., and morale was generally low. He could only look toward a year of difficult fighting and more political unrest within his own party. The winter was a hard one and the prospects in the field were dimmed by the weather. Here, in a drawing from the Library of Congress collection, Union forces are shown as they moved into winter quarters just before the first of the year. (UPI)

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Lincoln, Seward Sign Document

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

President Lincoln shook hands all morning on Jan. 1, 1863, first with cabinet members, then with officers of the armed services and later with citizens who called at the White House to wish him a Happy New Year.

The day was wet and White House servants covered the rugs in the Blue Room, where Lincoln received, to catch the mud scuffed from dirty boots.

Soon after noon Secretary of State William H. Seward and his son, Frederick, went to the White House carrying an engrossed copy of the President's permanent Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln was alone when the Seward entered his office. The President spread the engrossed proclamation on a table and dipped his pen. With it poised, he said to the Swards:

"I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper. But I have been receiving calls and shaking hands since nine o'clock this morning, till my arm is stiff and numb. Now this signature is one that will be closely examined, and if they find my hand trembled they will say, 'he had some compunction.' But anyway, it's going to be done."

Then he wrote in firm script, "Abraham Lincoln," at the bottom of the proclamation.

Signed by Seward

Seward signed it also and with that the slaves were freed — the slaves, that is, who belonged to anyone "in rebellion against the United States."

At the Smith plantation on Port Royal Island, one of the Sea Islands on the South Carolina coast, there was a unique celebration that New Year's Day.

Port Royal Island had been captured by the Federals in November 1861.

Soon the islands were crowded by escaped slaves. The army first put them to work and then began recruiting them into military units.

New Year's was to be a special day for the newly-liberated slaves.

They roasted 10 hogs and made 10 barrels of molasses and water, a mild drink consisting of three gallons of molasses, half a pound of ginger and a quart of vinegar to a barrel of water — a drink described as "destined to cheer but not inebriate."

The Negro soldiers in red Zouave pants and blue coats stood at attention in a crowd of ex-slaves and onlookers.

The colonel of the regiment, Colonel Wentworth Higginson, a dedicated abolitionist of New England, a minister and a man of letters, later described the scene:

"The services began at half past eleven o'clock with a prayer. Then the President's proclamation was read by Dr. W. H. Babine, a thin, infinitely appropriate, a South Carolinian addressing South Carolinians, for he was reared among those very islands, and here long since emancipated his own slaves. Then the colors were presented to us by the Rev. Mr. Franch, a chaplain who brought them from the donors in New York. All this was according to programme."

Then followed an incident so simple, so touching, so utterly unexpected and startling, that I can scarcely believe it on recalling though it gave the keynote to the whole day.

The very moment the speaker had ceased, and just as I took and waved the

flag... there suddenly arose, close beside the platform, a strong male voice but rather cracked and elderly, into which two women's voices instantly blended, singing as if by an impulse that could no longer be repressed than the morning note of a song sparrow —

"My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing."

"People looked at each other and then at us on the platform... Firmly and irrepressibly the quivering voices sang on, verse after verse... it made all other words seem cheap; it seemed the choked voice of a race at last unloosed... Just think of it! — the first day they ever had a country, the first flag they ever had seen which promised anything to their people."

When the song ended, Higginson wrote, "tears were everywhere."

Besides the proclamation, the effect of which remained to be seen, Lincoln could find little else that day on the favorable side.

What of 1863? What did the young year hold for Lincoln and the Union? For Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy?

Lincoln could read the facts only too well.

The Army of the Potomac lay demoralized across the Rappahannock River, from Fredericksburg, Va., where it had spilled a torrent of blood in vain two weeks before. Morale collapsed and desertions jumped to 5,000 a month. Men who had stormed at Marye's Heights against a parapet of cannon fire now developed scurvy from a hardtack and pork diet. Fifty miles away Washington civilians toasted the New Year in champagne.

Told To Hold Up

The army's commander, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, was chafing to send this beaten army on another winter campaign and perhaps as far as Lincoln knew — into another disaster like Fredericksburg, which had moved Lee to say "it is well that war is so terrible, we should grow too fond of it."

Lincoln hesitated and told Burnside to hold up the campaign. On this New Year's day Lincoln wrote an order to Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, commander of all the Union armies, to go to Burnside's Headquarters, confer with him and his staff and make a recommendation on the proposed campaign.

Out West the political and military situations were no better, perhaps worse. The old Northwest — Ohio, Indiana and Illinois — was restless. Traditionally Democratic, these states seemed to be losing their war spirit. The Democrats were beginning to believe what had started out to be a war to save the Union now was becoming a Republican way to destroy slavery. The old Northwest furnished too many men, too much money and too much food to be neglected.

There was a flurry of fighting as the year ended. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman was fighting above Vicksburg and Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans was fighting at Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Stones River.

On New Year's Day Lincoln knew the outcome of neither battle.

Davis would read a brighter page.

Year Better for South

The year of 1862 had been better for the South than the North, but by New Year's much of that shine was gone. The Richmond Examiner overstated the case and called

Editor's note: Four years ago Tuesday Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba following the pre-dawn flight of President Fulgencio Batista. Since then Cuba under Castro has become a beachhead for communism in the Americas. UPI correspondent Francis L. McCarthy, who was in Cuba at the time of the revolt, reviews in the following dispatch the Cuban transition under Castro.

By FRANCIS L. MCCARTHY
United Press International
Latin American News Editor

Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista fled Havana in the grey, early morning hours of New Year's Day, 1959. Within hours, followers of Fidel Castro seized power for the young revolutionary.

In the four years that have elapsed since the beginning of the Castro government, the Cuban transition from democracy to dictatorship has been complete.

Cuba is today the first Soviet satellite in the Americas.

Cubans, plagued by nearly three years of civil strife and restricted civil liberties, hailed Batista's flight. They welcomed Castro as a "liberator."

Few of them anticipated the fate in store for themselves under Castro's rule. Cuban organized labor has been stripped of its social gains, the people as a whole have been deprived of their civil rights. Seizes Property

In the four years that Castro has been in power, tens of thousands of privately owned businesses have been confiscated, more than a quarter of a million Cubans have been driven into exile and several billions of dollars in foreign assets and capital investment have been seized without compensation.

American investors alone have lost more than \$1.4 billion in Cuba.

Castro has admitted the "expropriation" of more than 1,000 known enemies. His political foes in exile claim the list of firing squad victims actually exceeds the 2,000 mark.

At least 50,000 of Castro's political foes languish in jails and concentration camps throughout Cuba for their opposition to his regime.

Four years after his seizure of power, Castro is today — from the military sense — still the master of Cuba.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of Soviet military equipment at an expenditure of more than \$100 million, and the creation of an armed force of an estimated 300,000 men and women — ten times the size of any previous Cuban army — have seen to that.

Takes Its Toll

Economically, the four years of socialist "destruction" of the capitalist system long existent in Cuba has had its toll.

The Cuban peso — once on a par with the U.S. dollar — no longer is traded in world currency markets. Its black market price ranges — dependent on the currency involved — down to 20 to the dollar.

The nation's economy — once linked to that of its American neighbor to the north — now is entirely dependent on Communist aid. Cuba's foreign trade of today is more than 80 per cent tied in with the Communist world.

The Cuban sugar crop — the country's main export — even after four years of Castro continues to be a one-crop economy — is battered instead of sold.

The United States once bought nearly a billion dollars a year of Cuban sugar. The same sugar now is a barrier to Cuban trade with the Communist world.

Even in Cuba for the first time in that island's history is now rationed. Most commodities are, too. The so-called working and military classes under Castro have priority in their acquisition.

Lone Effort Fails

In four years, only one major armed effort has been made to topple Castro's Communist regime. That was in April, 1961, when an estimated 1,500 Cuban "soldiers of freedom" stormed ashore at the Bay of Pigs, near Havana, to try to seize enough Cuban territory for formation of a "government-in-exile."

The Bay of Pigs invasion, in which the United States played a prominent role, was a failure. Castro netted nearly 1,200 war prisoners.

Groups in the United States have since raised an estimated



Red China Defends 'Hard Line' Policy

Tokyo — AP — Communist China today made its strongest public defense of its "hard line" policy in the most open challenge yet to Soviet leadership of international communism.

A 20,000-word editorial in the official Peking People's Daily accused Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev and other Communist critics of China as being "timid as mice" when the American "paper tiger" bares its "nuclear teeth."

It defended the theory that war is "necessary," described Khrushchev's peaceful coexistence as "absurd" and said the Soviet backdown in Cuba "can only be regarded as 100 per cent appeasement, a 'Munich' pure and simple."

The reference to Khrushchev and the Soviet Union was indirect but unmistakable.

Bayonne, N.J. — AP — Brothers Joseph, Samuel, Anthony and Carmen Malta had to take turns Sunday standing on the roof of their bar to keep about 300 patrons happy. They each spent 15 minutes at a time steadying a special 30-foot television antenna in high winds which were disrupting reception of the National Football League championship game being broadcast by a Philadelphia station.

That Soviet-Cuban relations have been severely strained as a result has become clearly evident to the non-Communist world.

However, only time will tell whether the strain has been so severe as to lead Castro to contemplate a more "independent" form of socialist thinking or, perhaps, closer ties with the Red Chinese.

New Mexico Indian Said To Hold Secret of Jesse James Gold Cache

Albuquerque, N.M. — AP — Joe Suazo, a Santa Clara Indian who presumably knows where \$645,000 in gold bullion is hidden on his reservation, was in jail today because he won't tell where.

A man who said he is a grandson of Missouri's notorious bandit Jesse James claims that James hid the gold, 1,280 pounds of it in 90-pound ingots, on the Santa Clara Reservation in northern New Mexico after the Civil War.

Jesse L. James, Manitou, Colo., said his grandfather gave him the gold before he died, and told him how to find it. The gold was not lost from robberies, the grandson said, but was collected by James to help finance a hoped-for second rebellion in the South.

Legally His

James convinced U.S. District Judge Waldo Rogers at Albuquerque that if the gold exists it is legally his.

James said in his suit that on March 10, 1960, he and Suazo located the gold on a mountain on the Santa Clara Reservation, following his grandfather's directions.

But James said he was ill, there was deep snow on the mountain, and he decided not to try to carry the heavy ingots away immediately.

But before he could come back for the gold, James said, Suazo moved to another hiding place and refused to tell where it was until the "spirits" told him to do so.

Order Refused

Judge Rogers ordered Suazo to surrender the gold to James, without waiting for the spirits' assent. But the Indian, who lives at the Santa Clara Pueblo 23 miles north of Santa Fe, did not comply.

On Dec. 17, Rogers ordered Suazo to appear in court and explain why he had not given up the gold. Suazo did not show up.

U.S. marshals, on Rogers' orders, arrested Suazo at the Santa Clara Pueblo Wednesday and jailed him in Albuquerque. He is being held without bond until Rogers, who is ill, can return to the bench.

Time Magazine Picks Pope as 'Man of Year'

New York — AP — Time magazine has named Pope John XXIII "Man of the Year" for 1962.

Time said it was the first time a religious figure has been designated "Man of the Year" since the annual choice was begun in 1927. The magazine said the Ecumenical Council convened by the pontiff will have far-reaching effects on the world.

POPULATION RISES

Washington — AP — The Census Bureau said today the U.S. population would reach an estimated 188,045,000 on New Year's Day, a gain of 2,735,000 or 1.5 per cent over last Jan. 1.

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