

broadcast by the radio, the wandering mobs became more unruly. They sought out suspected Batista sympathizers, killed several (later reports state that 70 people died in Havana street fighting) and put others to flight, savagely looted the homes of former Cabinet Ministers or government officials (including Batista's daughter's residence), looted the army-supported free import stores and seized most of the Havana radio and TV stations. Havana residents were in more danger from these youthful hoodlums than they ever were from the actual 26th of July troops. Road blocks were thrown up on the major Havana streets and any citizens foolish enough to travel were stopped at almost every intersection and forced to identify themselves.

6. This disorganization continued through the afternoon and night of January 1, on January 2 and during the early hours of January 3. By that time, however, legitimate members of the 26th of July movement, complete with up to two years' growth of hair and beards and colourful guerrilla costumes, had arrived in Havana. These troops have by now earned considerable respect for their orderly and subdued deportment. They immediately issued orders designed to call in the arms held by wandering mobs, placed a strong curfew on Havana residents for the night of January 3 and gradually brought the city under more or less effective control. Meanwhile, the general strike which Castro had called as soon as he learned of Cantillo's perfidy continued in effect until midnight of January 4. As a result, local city transportation collapsed entirely, shortages of food, milk and drinking water became serious for many unprepared Havana residents; garbage collection facilities ceased to function, and traffic conditions degenerated from Havana's usual bad to worse.

7. During the height of the crisis in Havana, the American and Canadian Embassies made arrangements to evacuate in the neighbourhood of 1700 American and Canadian tourists and students stranded in Havana by the general strike. A separate report to Ottawa outlines the steps taken in this regard (our letter No. L-5 of January 5, 1959).†

8. Castro remained in Santiago de Cuba long enough to swear in his candidate for President, Dr. Manuel Urrutia, 57-year old former Judge of the Santiago District Court, to name his new Cabinet (list sent under our letter No. L-2 of January 6† — in a later report we shall attempt to provide some comments on the more important members of the Cabinet) and to proclaim that Santiago de Cuba would be the new capital seat, although no further action has been taken regarding this announcement. Early news releases regarding the pronouncements made by Castro and Urrutia gave no indication of any plans for an election or any suggestion that the new government would be temporary. However, on January 7 the recently elected Congress was dissolved by presidential decree and all Political Parties abolished; however, a promise was issued that elections would be held within 18 to 24 months (a rather long period for a provisional President to retain power). In the meantime, the new President and his Cabinet will rule Cuba by decree, a procedure which Cubans have become accustomed to during the last two years of the Batista régime.

9. As soon as he had installed his candidate as provisional President, Castro began a triumphal journey by land from Santiago to Havana. This slow journey, obviously designed to cement Castro support throughout the island and to allow the 26th of July troops already in Havana time to solidify their positions has been further slowed by the poor condition of the roads, resulting from Castro's earlier activities, and by two to three-hour Castro speeches in each major centre en route. The Cubans, always quick to hail a conquering hero, are apparently turning out in force to cheer Castro on his journey, and at the time of this writing plans are underway to provide a rousing welcome in Havana for the Castro procession, which has grown with each stop. Some concern has been expressed that Castro is delaying his entry to Havana too long and that the revolutionary unity preceding the victory may not persist long after the victory. An indication of this tendency to split into factions appeared on January 7 when the so-called 13th of March Revolutionary Directorate, the survivors of the University Students'