7. Castro Regime Reacts to Growing Resistance

The Castro regime, faced with growing but still uncoordinated resistance inside Cuba, is increasing its measures to combat it. Six Cubans were executed on 10 December on counterrevolutionary charges, and more executions are expected. The civilian militia, though not invariably reliable, now rivals the regular armed forces as an instrument in suppressing dissident activity. It is composed largely of the lowest income groups, where loyalty to Castro is strongest.

The purging of the leaders of the electrical workers' union on 12 December will at least temporarily suppress the revolt of that union against domination by the Communist-controlled Confederation of Cuban Workers. The electrical workers' protest march on the Presidential Palace on 9 December was a rare show of defiance against Communist control, and resentment will continue to smolder among organized workers. Members of the electrical workers' union were evidently responsible for the bombings in Havana electrical installations late last month.

Che Guevara, speaking in Moscow on 10 December, declared that "counterrevolutionary terror will be met with equal terror." In saying "we are not yet united and organized into a single party," he implied that the regime will shortly seek to fulfill this project. If carried out, this device would serve further to strengthen police state controls and increase the scope of Communist entrenchment. At present, the Communists have the only organized party in the country.

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