

11. The Cuban Situation

The communiqué read in Fidel Castro's name on the Cuban radio early on 20 April acclaimed the victory "in less than 72 hours" over the "mercenary army" in southern Las Villas Province. Future Cuban statements are likely to expand on the theme that this victory was a significant defeat for "US imperialism." Meanwhile, strong repressive measures continue against those Cubans unsympathetic to Castro, and several "traitors," including Castro's former Minister of Agriculture Humberto Sori Marin, were executed on 20 April.

In Guatemala, Communists are reported by a usually reliable source to be planning demonstrations on 21 April against President Ydigoras for his alleged assistance to the anti-Castro "mercenaries."

Another source reports that the demonstrations are to pave the way for a coup that would be "a lesson to the United States to leave Castro alone in the future." Ydigoras, though at present in a relatively strong position, does face opposition from diverse political elements and some dissidence in the armed forces.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1997