

~~B.~~ Cheering crowds welcomed Fidel Castro and his rebel army as they made their triumphal progress across Cuba from Oriente Province where Castro launched his revolt 2 years ago with just a dozen men. Once a poorly armed guerrilla force, they rode on captured Cuban Army ~~in~~ tanks. All the countryside turned out to cheer the column on its way. For everyone, including the rival rebel groups, have flocked to ~~X~~Castro's flag at his moment of ~~triumph~~ success. One of the groups, the Student Directorate, are to be given a say in the formation of Cuba's new Government.....

At his headquarters, Castro, who has refused a cabinet post in the new government, ~~but is to be~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~leader~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~government~~, told reporters that in future there would be clean government and that the army would be reformed and made a force for peace.....

At Camaguey the new leader got a great reception as he stopped off to meet the President-Elect, Judge Manuel Urrutia, who was flying to the capital, Havana. Marines had to be called out to control the crowds ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~crowds~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~crowds~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~crowds~~.....

Throughout the day and into the night the people called for Castro. And eventually after his policy discussions with the President were completed, he came out to meet them. For 2 hours he addressed a crowd of 25,000 in the public square. It was yet one more triumph for the young hero of Cuba, Fidel Castro.....

First taste of freedom came to the people of Cuba when dictator Batista and his government fled the country in the face of the revolution led by 31 years old lawyer Fidel Castro.....

The Capital, Havana, went wild with excitement when the news hit the streets. And soon crowds of jubilant people, ~~who suffered under what was considered the most savage dictatorship in South America,~~ were everywhere celebrating their liberation, from 6 years of ~~tyranny~~ ^{ruleless dictatorship.} ~~tyranny~~ Then the excitement got out of hand and with Batista's police no longer in ~~control~~ ^{control}, rioting broke out. Shops were wrecked and looted. ~~Parking meters~~ ^{were} smashed. Anything connected with the Batista regime was shattered. Then, leaving a ~~xx~~ trail of destruction behind them, the rioters set out to free political prisoners from Batista's many gaols

At Principe prison the guards stood firm and refused to open the doors. Fighting broke out and the crowd was fired on. It's estimated that over 50 people died in the rioting that spread to the Presidential Palace, seat of the hated government and where Carlos Piedra, Provisional President at the head of a military junta set up headquarters, only to be removed from power immediately by Castro and replaced by Judge Manuel Urrutia.....

When the ragged troops of Castro's victorious guerrilla army eventually arrived on the scene, they had a fight on their hands ~~x~~ with the diehard Batista supporters who still remained. After that their main job was to try and restore order in a city running wild. ...At the Hotel, Plaza, the Casino was the mob's target, ransacked because gambling was one of the rackets controlled by the Batista family. Despite the efforts of the rebel forces rioting and looting continued and it's going to cost Castro's new government a lot of hard work to clean up the mess in lovely Havana.....