

EDITORIAL

# Why Did Castro Succeed?

by Cheddi Jagan

THE fighting is over. The Cuban Revolution has survived its first major attack. To what extent was the U.S. involved? Was this an affair a la Guatemala?

In 1954 when Guatemala was attacked, U.S. Government denied involvement. *Time Magazine*, however, in its Latin American edition, on August 8 said that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had supported the army which overthrew the Arbenz Government. The exact quote was "...with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as a silent partner, a Guatemalan colonel named Carlos Castillo Armas launched his counter-revolutionary invasion of the Red-dominated country."

The U.S. Government said that it is not directly involved in Cuba. However, it has expressed sympathy for the counter-revolutionary forces. These forces seem to get a lot of money in the U.S. Also they can operate openly and freely in Miami and elsewhere.

Compare treatment that Castro got when he was in exile from 1955 to 1957; he was hounded and even in Mexico his training ground for his handful of revolutionaries had to be completely secret and changed from time to time because of government raids. *New York Times* exposed the training of the anti-Castro rebels in Guatemala. *Time Magazine* blew up what was happening in Miami. No wonder Fidel Castro has pointed the accusing finger at the U.S. Government. History will judge.

Why did Castro succeed and Arbenz fail? Let's hear what Arbenz himself had to say. Last May he gave an interview in Havana to U.S. newspaperman, Lyle Stuart.

Stuart: One criticism of the Castro regime has been that the people are whipped up too much to prepare for an invasion. But they say that one weakness of your regime is that your people were not sufficiently alerted against an invasion possibility. Do you believe there is substance in that?

Arbenz: In the few days that I have been in Cuba I observed that the Cuban people are not frightened by a possible aggression and that they are ready to defend their revolution. They will defend it even at a cost of their lives. The error of the Guatemalan situation was that our country's defense was all in the hands of the army and many agents of the United States infiltrated the army. Also, the Guatemalan people were not armed as the Cuban people are.

Stuart: Do you think that the people would have fought?

Arbenz: I am absolutely sure that they would have fought until the end. The army which had the support of the people, betrayed the people."

There you have it. The difference between the Guate-

land holdings were...  
Unfortunately, the farmers were not armed...  
Fidel Castro no doubt learned from the...  
made by the Arbenz regime. He...  
ed the regular Cuban Army. Its place...  
by his own Rebel Army. And he called for...  
These militiamen — farmers, workers, teachers...  
clerks, civil servants — were trained and...

into their hands. These are the people who...  
fended their revolution and repulsed the attacks...

## Caught Napping

The attackers have been caught napping. They fooled themselves with their own propaganda. The liberal press blazed headlines about anti-Castro and internal rebellion in Cuba. Castro was a dream was holding the people by force and terror. The lies spread. Any objective observer could see that 90 o/o of the Cuban people were supporting the revolutionary Government. As Jose Miro Torres, counter revolutionary leader put it: "I walked for and at every turn there was a militiaman."

Last May Day, Fidel hit back at all these lies and propaganda. Answering the charge from the USA about...

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U.S. aggression against Cuba. Referring to President Kennedy's original statement at the outset of the attack on Cuba that the U.S. would not intervene with its own troops, Nehru told Indian Members of Parliament he did not see the difference between that kind of intervention and the intervention that actually took place.

Prime Minister Nehru, speaking in the Indian Parliament openly condemned

### Castro

[from page 2]

democratic he shouted back that the real test of democracy — was to put guns in the hands of the farmers, the workers, the clerks. He challenged the U.S. Government to do as he did, to arm the Negroes who constituted a majority in the South. That, he said would be a time test of American democracy and the real freedom of the Negro people.

Let the Tellos and Ishmaels in our country take note. Are the ordinary people slaves — according to our so-called trade union leaders — who have wiped out the invaders. Why didn't they use the guns given to them against Castro if their rights and freedoms were suppressed?

Imperialism is dying. It used force to overthrow several democratic regimes — the Callegos-Betancourt Government in 1948, the Mosadeq Government in Iran in 1951, the P.P.P. Government in 1953, the Arbenz Government in 1954. The turning point came in 1956. Then we saw the attack on Egypt failed. Fidel Castro is lucky. He has not only the people of Cuba on his side. History is on his side. 1961 is a world of difference from 1951. The reactionary imperialist forces will fight back. But the hand-writing is on the wall. The death knell of imperialism is sounding on all fronts.

To sum up in the words of a liberal American, Dr. Shapiro, Assistant Professor of History at Michigan State University —

'Some day we are going to have to recognise the permanent nature of the social revolution that has taken place in Cuba, just as we eventually came to terms with similar upheavals in Mexico and the USSR. Meanwhile, one can only echo the sentiment expressed to me by a number of Cubans: 'Que nos dejan en paz' — 'If they would only leave us alone?'

### How Happy

We know from experience how happy it would be the Archbishop, the Kendall and his D'Aguiar and his if another interim ment came to British ana.

They could all do a derful job of keeping poor hungry and the contented and care-free

The Archbishop wo certainly have no m (k)nightmares!

### Versailles-Goed Fortuin

The Versailles-Goed tuin Group of the PPP election of officers and committee members on Sunday April 15. Returning Officer was Pandit S. Misir, Chairman: E. Branc Vice Chairman: M. Secretary: J. Asst. Secty: I. Treasurer: R. Committee Members: Dundee, B. Seeraj, S. R. Jadunath.

### Battle of the Pickets

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racialist emotions on both sides.

The plain cruel and human objective is to stop clashes among the races produce the classical condition of racial and sectional division for the military intervention of the imperialists and for the perpetuation of imperialism.

### Calculated Provocation

Party supporters are warned. Do not be provoked. Do not retaliate. To do this will be to set us back a hundred years. Our fight is not against the Birnamites, but against the foreign rulers of Guana.

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