

J28-1961]

▲ hold that rank – the others being
go [Spanish] and Ernesto "Che"
an].

Ent has, unsurprisingly, denied claims
.ommandante (as he was known) was an
.A. Morgan was one of the leaders of an
.oup organised by Dominican dictator Rafael
.Wever, Morgan had secretly informed Castro of
and it failed. Possibly due to the persistent belief
nvolvement with the CIA, Morgan was implicated

William
CIA agent

The anti-Castro rebels in the firing squad.

the last of these that, in

explosion and, later,

by the P.D.C. 000 Cubans

the USA after the

o the USA after the

level of discontent.

no have tried to escape to

ats and rafts have drowned in

do not feature in the statistics.

else: The Revolution has

arrested for "rebellion", tried

unist) as Minister of the

the appointment of Ra-

the communists,

imunists. His "

signature,

u, as

suspected

Following Gaстро's
decision to continue
soon joined by

from Camarioca, 1965
the Mariel Boatlift. Across the social spectrum (and working class) made it poor economic situation at the Malecón Exodus. Due to the humanitarian crisis caused by Soviet Union, about 35,000 Cuban refugees showed the homemade boats from Florida and

Huber Matos [

only a matter of time before Castro's nub
els [in January 1965].

Castro appointed Hr
brilliant rebel comma
of Camagüey province.
his concerns about the
unfortunate: his previous
been ignored but this letter
Castro (the new government
Armed Forces.

Matos (along with many of his
and sentenced to 20 years' impiis
beginning to devour its sons".

ray Rebellion, 1960-1965

's victory in January 1959, some sol-
ue the fight from the Escambray Mts
iers (including William Alexander Mc
he land reforms. The Escam-
los", the War Against The
ro's own Sierra Maes-
ar less popular s'
le US militar
yed. Ho
indir

intains. They were
'gan) who disliked
t by peasant farmers
ellon (known in Cuba as
is a guerrilla campaign
ainst Batista's forces.
6-7 rebels had, but
gents, that the
le Bay of Pigs
stro's counter-
nts and their
nerically superior

The Escambray Rebellion, 1960-1965

Following Castro's victory in January 1959, some soldiers still loyal to Batista decided to continue the fight from the Escambray Mountains. They were soon joined by others [including William Alexander Morgan] who disliked disenchantment with the land reforms. The Escambray Rebellion [known in Cuba as "Lucha contra Bandidos", the War Against The Bandits] was a guerrilla campaign similar in style to Castro's own Sierra Maestra campaign against Batista's forces. These rebels enjoyed far less popular support than the M-26-7 rebels had, but they were given the same US military aid, via CIA and Mafia agents, that the previous regime had enjoyed. However, after the debacle of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the USA cut off funding and supplies to the rebels. Castro's counter-infiltration units were busily uncovering CIA agents and their networks, and so it was only a matter of time before Castro's numerically superior forces defeated the rebels (in January 1965).

Escambia Rebellion, 1960-1965

Castro appointed Huber Matos, a former teacher and farmer who had been a brilliant rebel commander during the Sierra Campaign, as military governor of Camagüey Province. In October 1959 he wrote a resignation letter, stating his concerns about the growing influence of the communists. His timing was unfortunate: his previous complaints to Castro about the communists had been ignored but this letter was sent two days after the appointment of Raúl Castro (the new government's most prominent communist) as Minister of the Armed Forces.

Matos (along with many of his officers) was immediately arrested for "rebellion", tried and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. As Ballón states: "The Revolution was beginning to devour its sons".

Huber Matos (1918-2014)

▼ The Cuban exodus from Camarioca, 1965

- Apr-Oct 1980: the Mariel Boatlift. Around 125 000 Cubans from across the social spectrum [but mostly young male and working class] made it across to the USA, to flee the poor economic situation in Cuba.
- Jul-Aug 1994: the Malecón Exodus. Due to the economic and humanitarian crisis caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union, about 35 000 Cubans took up Castro's offer to emigrate to the USA after the Malecón protests showed the level of discontent.
- - -

▲ The Cuban exodus from Camarioca, 1965

- 1959-1960: Cubans worried about the change of regime and what it might bring.
- 1960-1962: Operation Peter Pan, in which the Catholic Church helped Cuban parents to send their children to be fostered in the USA.
- Oct-Nov 1965: the Camarioca Exodus. Castro announced that any Cubans wishing to leave for the USA could do so from Camarioca; 2979 Cubans left Cuba for Miami.
- 1965-1973: "Freedom Flights". Twice-daily flights from Cuba to Miami. According to the Miami Herald, from Cuba to Miami allowed Cubans with relatives in the USA to flee Cuba. According to the Miami Herald, 265 297 Cubans made this journey.
- - -



Cuban refugees

Since before independence, Cubans wishing to flee their homeland for whatever reason have travelled to Miami in Florida and the surrounding area, and a "Cuban exile" community has grown there. This community was already strong enough in the 19th century for Jose Martí to be able to go to them for help in financing his war of independence in 1895.

already strong enough in the 19th century for Jose Martí to be able to go to them for help in financing his war of independence in 1895.

Operation Mongoose (The Cuban Project) In early 1960, President Eisenhower authorized a budget of US\$1.3 million for the CIA to remove Castro from power. Part of this campaign featured in the best-selling 2012 consode game, Call of Duty: Black Ops, earning strong condemanation from the Cuban government. Some of the plots were very simple and relied upon Mafia or Cuban assassins infiltrating Cuba and murdering Castro with guns or bombs. However, his notorious erratic movements made this very difficult. Some plots played on his love of scuba diving and involved giving him gifts of poisoned wetsuits or having an agent poison his breathing apparatus in the hope of provoking an uprising against Castro. These other CIA plots involved targeting the Cuban economy instead.

Operation Mongoose (The Cuban Project)

In June 1989, Cuba experienced its most serious internal opposition crisis since 1959. Four senior military and intelligence figures - including General Amaldio Ochoa - and several others were arrested on charges of corruption and drug smuggling. They were tried by military tribunals. Four, including Ochoa, were condemned to death and executed on 13 July; others received prison sentences ranging from 20 to 30 years. There is speculation that Ochoa and the others who favoured Gorbachev-style reforms, were planning a coup. The crisis caused serious divisions in Cuba. However, the economic crisis of the Special Period soon followed (see pages 202-04) brought about a new sense of unity.

The Ochoa Affair, 1989



In the March 1960 La Coubre explosion and, later, accused of gunrunning to aid the anti-Castro rebels in Escambray Mountains. It was for the last of these that, March 1961, he was executed by firing squad.