



Puerto Rico's Gov. Luis Muñoz-Marín (left) and Antonio Ferns Isern, resident commissioner, report the situation under control. (International Photo)

23 Puerto Ricans Die In Revolt Against U.S.

By JULIO RIVERA

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Oct. 30 (AP).—Anti-United States Nationalist rebels fired today on the Governor's Palace and bombed and burned police stations in several other towns in a revolt that cost 23 lives.

Gov. Luis Muñoz-Marín told the nation in a broadcast tonight that the uprising was "a conspiracy against democracy helped by the Communists."

The Governor told reporters earlier that the "situation is well in hand." In his broadcast he asked the people to be on the alert but to "remain serene, since there is no danger that your democratic liberty will be harmed by these fanatics."

Latest reports to police here said the dead included 13 policemen, nine Nationalist rebels, and one fireman. Some shooting was still in progress late in the day.

[International News Service reported the revolt was led by Harvard graduate Pedro Albizu Campos and said he was among those killed.]

Munoz interpreted the attack on the palace as an attempt to murder him and said this was in accord with "Communist and Fascist" practices.

400 Nationalists

The Nationalists are extremists who demand complete independence of Puerto Rico from the U. S. Munoz said they do not number more than 400 over all the island.

Munoz told the country the uprising amounted only to a "criminal conspiracy by a group of fanatics" and the only results have been the loss of the lives of policemen and the Nationalists, "who God knows might have been good citizens of their minds had not been poisoned."

(In Washington officials familiar with the situation in Puerto Rico minimized the significance of the disorders. They were advised by Antonio Ferns Isern, Puerto Rican resident commissioner, that the government had the situation completely under control.)

The rebellion began in two southern coastal towns with attacks on police stations. Similar attacks followed immediately in three towns in the center of the island, one on the northern coast and in San Juan, where police clashed with the rebels in front of the governor's palace and at the Post Office.

were shot down as they came out. More than 20 houses were in flames.

The Mayor of Adjuntas reported to the Governor's Palace that Jayuya was being "burned out" and that 15 armed policemen from Adjuntas had been unable to enter Jayuya because of Nationalist resistance. The tank company was expected to break into the town tomorrow morning.

The governor said at a news conference he was "not even considering, even in the remotest, proclaiming martial law, since it is unnecessary." However, San Juan prepared to spend a night with National Guardsmen patrolling in front of the Governor's Palace, the Capitol, Police Headquarters, Army and Navy installations, and other key government offices.

A reporter who was an eyewitness of the attack on the Governor's Palace said five men staged it. The five arrived at the main gate of the palace in an auto and stopped. A man identified as Raimundo Diaz jumped out with a submachinegun, the reporter said.

The gunman started blasting

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at the two policemen guarding the palace entrance. One policeman was wounded and died later. Other police in the area started shooting at the attackers. Four of the assailants, including Diaz, were killed, and one was wounded.

The first outbreak came in Ponce on the southern coast, where Nationalists attacked the police station and exchanged fire with the police. Another came at nearby Penuelas, when a police party carrying out a search for hidden arms was ambushed by about 30 Nationalist rebels. Three Nationalists were killed there and five police were wounded before the police brought the situation under control.

A third outbreak erupted at Arecibo, northern coastal town, where Nationalists fired from a

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Late in the afternoon Nationalists were still shooting at Jayuya, in the center of the island. A National Guard tank company was ordered to Jayuya from Arecibo. The police station in Jayuya was bombed and set on fire, and all six policemen inside

were shot down as they came out. More than 20 houses were in flames.

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A third outbreak erupted at Arecibo, northern coastal town, where Nationalists fired from a speeding car into a police jeep, killing a policeman and wounding others.

A government source said the Nationalists, who often echo the Communist line, had staged the uprisings in an attempt to embarrass the administration, which is pledged to continue Puerto Rico's status as a territory of the U. S.

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