

23 Killed in Puerto Rico Revolt Laid to Reds and Anti-U.S. Party

Government Quells Uprising After Rebels Fire On Governor's Palace and Bomb Police Stations

By The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, P. R., Oct. 30.—Anti-United States Nationalist rebels fired today on the Governor's palace here and bombed and burned police stations in several other towns in a revolt that cost twenty-three lives.

Gov. Luis Munoz Marin 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 reaching police in San Juan said the dead included thirteen policemen, nine Nationalist rebels and one fireman. Some shooting was still in progress late in the day.

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

The Nationalists demand complete independence of Puerto Rico from the United States. Gov. Munoz said they do not number more than 400 over all the island.

Gov. Munoz told the country the uprising amounted only to a "criminal conspiracy by a group of fanatics" and the only results had been the loss of the precious lives of policemen and Nationalists, "who God knows might have been good citizens if 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 that the government had the situation completely under control.]

The rebellion began in two

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southern coastal towns with attacks on police stations. Similar attacks followed immediately in three towns in the center of the island, in 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 postoffice.

Rebels Still Shooting

Late in the afternoon Nationalists were still shooting in Jayuya, one of the towns 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 twenty houses were in flames.

The mayor of Adjuntas reported to the governor's palace that Jayuya was being "burned out" and that fifteen 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 approached the main gate of the palace by automobile and stopped in front of the entrance. A man identified as Raimundo Diaz jumped out with a sub-machine gun, the reporter said.

The gunman started blasting at the two policemen who are always at the palace entrance. One policeman was wounded and died later in a hospital. Other police and plainclothes men on duty in the area started shooting at the attackers.

Gunfire Ends Quickly

A lieutenant in charge said the gunfire from the attackers lasted less than ten minutes. Four of the assailants, including Diaz, were killed and one was wounded. The firing began shortly before noon, and by 1 p. m. calm had been restored around the palace.

Firemen as well as policemen were among the victims of the rebels' bullets. At Utuado, in central Puerto Rico, one fireman was killed and another wounded while they were trying to put out a fire Nationalists had started at the postoffice.

A government source said the Nationalists had staged the uprising in an attempt to embarrass the Administration, which is pledged to continue Puerto Rico's status as a territory of the United

States. The Nationalists were said to have been planning a similar demonstration Nov. 4, when Puerto Ricans will register to vote on the island's new Constitution, opposed by the Nationalists.

The Nationalist party is led by Pedro Albizu Campos, its president. He served a sentence in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., from 1937 to 1943, for insurrection.

The sixty-three-year-old extremist leader had been holding rallies throughout this island, whose 2,000,000 people are United States citizens, urging them to declare themselves against the new Constitution. He also denounced selective service.

Founded Party in 1928

Police, keeping a close watch over his activities, trailed him to one such rally last week. On the way back to San Juan, the internal security agents' car was forced off the road by a car accompanying the Albizu party. The car was stopped later in a San Juan suburb, and four Nationalists were arrested when it was found to contain arms and ammunition.

Albizu founded his Nationalist party in 1928. It went to the polls for the first time in 1932 and got 5,700 votes. It chose not to vote in most of the elections, however, including the one held in 1948, when for the first time the Puerto Ricans elected their own governor.

Governor Munoz heads the Popular Democratic party. Second in strength is the Statehood party, which wants Puerto Rico to become the forty-ninth state. Next is the Independence party, which wants independence but is not connected with the extremist Nationalists.

Albizu is reported to be at his home in San Juan. It is surrounded by his own guards, and whenever police tried to get near it today, shots were fired from the windows.

Spent Years in New York

Albizu, called an advocate of terror methods, went to prison in 1937 after Police Commander Francis Riggs was killed in a revolutionary plot here. After his release from Atlanta, the balding, stocky Nationalist leader spent several years in New York City on parole. He returned to Puerto Rico in 1948 to take up the profession of attorney again and begin welding his Nationalists together.

The Puerto Rican government sent police reinforcements to the affected areas. As the help was sent, the situation in Penuelas had been described as "serious." It was in that area that the police had attempted to raid the home of Albizu's mother in a search for hidden munitions.

The authorities said there was no connection between Nationalist risings and Saturday's jail break at Rio Piedras, despite the fact that the attackers in San Juan itself came from a place near Rio Piedras, according to Justice Department officials.

In the Rio Piedras prison break, 111 prisoners shot their way out Saturday. More than half of them are still at large.