

# Last Script

## Post-Production Script

### REPORT FROM CUBA

A 16mm documentary film in color

Produced by:

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A presentation of:

National Educational Television  
for INTERTEL

VISUAL

AUDIO

(TITLES SUPER OVER FILM)

(MUSIC)

SENTRY AGAINST SKYLINE  
WALKING FEET  
WORKERS IN COFFEE FIELD  
CONSTRUCTION SITE  
PAN ALONG LINE OF FACES  
AUDIENCE

REPORT FROM CUBA

PRESENTED BY INTERTEL

A PROJECT FOR INTERNATIONAL  
UNDERSTANDING THROUGH TELE-  
VISION

PRODUCED BY NATIONAL EDUCA-  
TIONAL TELEVISION, USA

EXTERIOR - AUDIENCE

(APPLAUSE)

CASTRO (Translation):

CASTRO

The most difficult task wasn't really  
the overthrow of the tyranny...and a  
conquest of revolutionary power. The  
most difficult task came later. The  
most difficult is the one we are en-  
gaged in today -- the task of building  
a new country on the ground of an un-  
derdeveloped economy; the task of  
creating a new consciousness, a new  
man, on the ground of ideas that have  
prevailed in our society for centuries.

AUDIENCE

(FIREWORKS, EXPLOSIONS)

CASTRO

AUDIENCE

CASTRO

This continent is pregnant with revol-  
ution. Sooner or later it will be born.  
It's birth may be more or less complic-  
ated, but it is inevitable.

AUDIENCE



VISUALAUDIO

CASTRO

(APPLAUSE)

NARRATOR:

Comandante Fidel Castro, Minister of Cuba and Secretary of its Communist Party. Eight years after taking power he guides Cuba in a daily revolution.

CROWD

The object is to conquer underdevelopment and to promote revolution throughout Latin America. The enemies, as he defines them, backward ideas, and Yankee imperialism.

LARGE POSTER ON BUILDING

For Cubans the question is posed like this: Submit before imperialism or fight.

HAVANA SCENES

(MUSIC)

That's the scene ninety miles from Florida. And those are English buses in Havana.

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

It looks almost as it did in 1959, only the posters have changed and scholarship students live in the vacated mansions and fancy apartments. The hotels, like the Havana Hilton - now the Havana Libra - were built around gambling casinos with American dollars for American tourists. Now Russian technicians and Latin guerrilla delegations live in them. Eight years ago, who would have thought that coffee and beans would be rationed along with many

VISUAL

NEWSREEL FOOTAGE  
(black & white)

AUDIO

other things in Cuba. The buildings built from sugar profits are historical monuments to the pre-revolutionary period, an era of fun and laziness when it seemed impossible for anything to change. As the Cubans put it: "COMO QUIERA QUE TE PONGAS, TIENES QUE LLORAR" -- no matter what happens, you have to cry. But for some Cubans, tears turned to anger. On the dawn of July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro launched the Cuban Revolution with an abortive attack on Fort Moncada in Santiago de Cuba. With a small group of men including his brother Raul, he began a guerrilla war in the Sierra Maestra and underground terrorism in the cities. In 1957 student leader Jose Antonio Echeverria led an attack in the Presidential Palace. During Christmas, 1958, the final Battle of Santa Clara, Batista fell and the Revolution took power. Rejoicing. Castro said when he got to the Sierra Maestra that the days of the tyranny were numbered and the new day for Cuba was at hand. Castro announced his series of reforms, in the city and the countryside. Cuba was quickly turned upside down. The Revolution was fun at first, a "Pachanga"

Then the world began to realize that Castro and his men were serious. Five



VISUALAUDIO

HAVANA BEACH

BUILDING

FERRYBOAT GOING TO  
HAVANA HARBOR

SOVIET SHIP IN DOCKS

SHOT OF STALLED CARS

HAVANA BUSES

hundred Batistianos were tried and shot, shocking U.S. public opinion. Charges of Communism were leveled at Castro, and especially at his companion, Che Guevara. Cuban-American relations deteriorated as the Revolution moved further left. For the U.S. Government, the Revolution became an affront, although for much of Cuba, the Revolution was like a rebirth. For Havana, it was the end of a way of life.

(MUSIC)

After eight years, the air conditioned buildings have deteriorated. Cubans who complain about this are called "sentimentalists". The buildings, like the city itself, are expensive to maintain.

The Soviet ships, that have replaced American vessels at the Havana docks, bring one million dollars a day of arms and agricultural material, rather than spare auto parts or consumer goods. When the old cars break down, spare parts are available only through the black market. A fuel pump or a tractor comes before a spare Chevrolet carburetor. So the Cubans improvise when they can. When the needs of Havana become critical, the Government allocates some of its foreign exchange to buy, for example, new buses. The Revolution also spends money to bring foreign

SALON DE MAI EXHIBIT SEQUENCE

VISUALAUDIO

guests to the country to show them the new Cuba and hopefully to gain foreign support for the Revolution, and also to give Cubans a taste of European culture.

In the summer of 1967 the French painting exhibition, the "Salon de Mai", first organized by Pablo Picasso during the French resistance, was invited to Havana for Cuba. This was something of a cultural "coup". It allowed Cubans to view modern European painting, and it brought together Cuban and European artists. When exhibitions such as the Salon de Mai are

## COLLECTIVE MURAL SEQUENCE

brought to Cuba, they are presented to (MUSIC)  
the public with great fanfare.

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

One of the highlights of the exhibition was the painting of a collective mural in which Cuban painters like Wilfredo Lam collaborated with European artists such as the playwright Peter Weiss, author of "Marat-Sade".

## POP SINGER

(MUSIC CONTINUES)  
(ELECTRIC GUITAR, SINGING)

Castro set up the guidelines within which artists and writers can work - "Within the Revolution - anything; outside of the Revolution - nothing."

PAINTERS ON SCAFFOLD  
DISSOLVE TO:  
DESNOES SEQUENCE

(MUSIC OUT)

DESNOES:

I think that Fidel is aware that the



VISUALAUDIO

culture problem is very serious and delicate and it has to be left alone for awhile before...(UNDER)

NARRATOR:

Edmundo Desnoes, a Cuban novelist who lived many years in the United States.

DESNOES:

The Government hasn't taken any definite position in any of the forms of expression where you should write this way or that way or this is the answer, or this is what we want, this is what we expect of you, because he's aware there's a cumulative experience of how, how this has failed.

NARRATOR:

DESNOES IN SWIMMING POOL

Desnoes' novel, "Memories of Underdevelopment", was published in 1967 in the United States under the title "Inconsolable Memories".

DESNOES:

C.U. DESNOES

When I left the country, I felt there was no solution. I had a pessimistic point of view on the possibility of a solution in a small underdeveloped island like Cuba. I felt that there was no solution. I was pessimistic, and I was searching for an individual solution to my problem. As a writer, I was sort of involved in the nihilistic; as I mentioned to you before that I identify

DESNOES SWIMMING IN POOL

VISUALAUDIO

C.U. DESNOES

PAN FROM POSTER ON BUILDING  
TO DESNOES BY POOL

DESNOES RIDING IN CAR

PANORAMA OF HAVANA

myself when Beckett says "You're alive. There's no cure for that." I felt that that expressed my situation. Then when the Cuban Revolution succeeded in 1959, I started to re-think all my experiences and my approach to things in general. Then in 1960 I returned. I even returned fully aware that it was going to Socialism. Already there were some friends returning from Cuba, telling me that this was Communism. Well, I came fully aware of the situation because I had been in New York. I knew what the cruelties of the modern world were -- what forces were at play. I knew what was the danger involved -- the situation, the odds against us. Maybe that was what moved me most. I feel that in underdeveloped countries there's still a colonial mentality in spite of the change in the economic structure. And we are aware of the failures of other countries in this situation, so we want to bring about something different. I think the responsibility of the artist is in the sphere of his conscience, working with de-colonizing the situation. Since we were brought up in the middle class and we lived in Havana, we were under the illusion that we had similar problems as those you would find in the United States or in Europe.



VISUALAUDIO

CASTRO AT PODIUM

CASTRO (Translation):

Havana is a superdeveloped capital of an underdeveloped society, speaking frankly, he who visits Cuba and sees only Havana (SPANISH OUT) leaves this country/without knowing Cuba.

PEASANT WITH OXEN-DRIVEN  
CARTDESNOES:

We were under certain influences of the fiction that we were developed because of Havana. When you walk out, three miles out of Havana and you see the huts which were the same as Columbus found here, the huts the Indians used to live i

JOSEITO FERNANDEZ SINGING

(MUSIC - SINGING)

NARRATOR:

This is Joseito Fernandez, composer of "Guantanamera".

COUNTRYSIDE SCENES

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

RODRIGUEZ:

SUGAR CANE FIELD

Because sugar was considered as the worst production for our national economy, people resented sugar because they associated sugar with misery, sugar with foreign domination, and even the national poet Guillen told that "my country is very sweet from the outside, but is very bitter from inside...(UNDER)

RODRIGUEZ AT DESK

NARRATOR:

This is Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, an economist and a member of the Central Committee of Cuba's Communist Party.

RODRIGUEZ:

It is easily understandable, that from

VISUALAUDIO

WORKER CARRYING SUGAR SACKS

SUGAR REFINERY

TILT UP CHIMNEY INSCRIBED  
"CUBA"DISSOLVE TO:  
SUGAR CANE FIELD

RODRIGUEZ AT DESK

SUGAR FIELDS AND  
COUNTRYSIDE SCENESJOSEITO FERNANDEZ CONCLUDES  
SINGINGTRACTOR MOVING IN A  
COFFEEFIELD

CONSTRUCTION OF PRE-FAB WALLS

the beginning we thought of reducing the part that sugar played in our national economy -- emancipate our economy from sugar and develop the whole economy with another conception. And at the same time, in this moment, the American Government eliminated the sugar quota from the market of the United States. We exported three million tons of sugar to the United States at five cents a pound, more or less, but this meant that we had not the opportunity to develop and under the slogan "Without sugar, we have no country", we were forbidden to develop our agriculture. So underdevelopment for us means that we had not the capacity of growing in the sense that a modern country must grow. So we were always trying to maintain our quota and without national liberty at all.

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

NARRATOR:

Castro has placed the Revolution's emphasis on agriculture -- the goal: to increase production by scientific farming, and to educate campesinos to the values of Cuban Communism. The first step was the construction of rural hospitals and schools. There were almost none before the Revolution, and to build prefabricated houses with electricity and



VISUALAUDIO

CONSTRUCTION OF STATE FARM

plumbing, to replace bohios, the mud huts

Most of the construction is on granjas, or state farms, where campesinos receive daily wages in addition to food and housing for growing cash crops. For some, the schools and homes meant security.

Others resented the reforms that did away with the large and medium sized farms. The small private farms that

BOY BRINGS HOE TO HIS FATHER  
WHO STARTS WORKING IN FIELD  
WHILE MOTHER HANGS LAUNDRY

remain, however, are more productive per acre than the state farms.

Ovidio Fernandez Hernandez owns about fifty acres of rich soil in San Andres in western Cuba.

FARMER TALKING

Ovidio is not a typical campesino. He is part of an experiment that involves private farming and state farms. The Government gave him the use of a tractor and easy credit in order to see if his productivity would increase significantly.

SCENES ON FARM

This was Castro's plan. And Fidel, as Ovidio calls him, visits often to check on the progress in the model plan, and to look at the tobacco and coffee quality as well as to see how much milk the cows are giving. Castro wants not only greater production, but a breakdown of all old habits, such as keeping women in subordinate roles. Ovidio's wife, however, still remains at home..

INTERIOR OF FARMER'S HOUSE

SIGN: "SAN ANDRES"

(CHILDREN SINGING)

VISUALAUDIO

PAN ALONG FIELD TO NURSERY  
SCHOOL BUILDING

INT. NURSERY SCHOOL -  
CHILDREN SINGING  
CHILDREN PLAYING  
BABIES IN CRIBS

MOTHER LOOKING THROUGH WINDOW

CHILDREN PLAYING ON SWINGS  
AND SLIDE

CHILDREN EATING

CHILD BEING WASHED

CHILDREN BEING PICKED UP BY  
THEIR MOTHERS

GONZALES STANDING IN A FIELD

PLOWING WITH A TEAM OF OXEN

The plan depends upon reshaping family ways, and this in turn depends upon the education.

(CHILDREN SINGING CONTINUES)

State nursery schools relieve mothers of childcare, if they so wish. Children can be dropped off in the morning and picked up after six, from age forty-five days, through six years. The women are encouraged to work -- not only to emancipate themselves from male domination, but because Cuba has a labor shortage.

(CHILDREN'S VOICES AND ADULTS, CONTINUE)

With the state providing three meals a day, clothing, and medical costs, and women working, average family income at San Andres has quadrupled in one year from about two hundred dollars to eight hundred dollars.

(SPANISH SPOKEN BY MAN)

Mario Gonzales, twenty-nine year old construction worker and secretary of the San Andres Communist Party, administers the model plan.

GONZALEZ (Translation):

Even after the Revolution triumphed, we haven't been able to overcome all these evils that existed in our country for more than four hundred years. The plan is an experiment in economic, political, and social development whereby the people of the area..work directly to improve



VISUAL

AUDIO

PAN TO SCHOOL EXT.

their life, including their social life.

NARRATOR:

FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY

Most Cuban children are now in either nursery, primary, or secondary schools.

(GUITAR MUSIC)

CHILDREN PLAYING AND WALKING  
ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

They are learning, among other things, that Communism is what the Revolution stands for, and to be proud of it. School also means work in the fields, some self-government, and heavy emphasis on sports -- all part of the progress as Castro and the leaders see it, of conquering underdevelopment.

CLASSROOM INTERIOR

Education also means studying Cuban and Latin American history and becoming conscious, as the Cuban leadership sees it, of Cuba's revolutionary obligation, and the U.S. imperialist enemy.

TEACHER ENTERS CLASS

TEACHER (Translation):

CLASS IN SESSION

Now talking about the War of Independence against Spain, why did they start it and where did it begin?

PUPIL (Translation):

They wanted to get control of the sugar mills in the Orient, and so they got all the forces, all the people together in Orient.

TEACHER (Translation):

Right. Now where did the first slave revolt succeed in the Americas?

PUPIL (Translation):

In the province of Haiti.

VISUALAUDIOTEACHER (Translation):

Right. In the province.. in the province

NARRATOR:CHILDREN MARCHING TO DINING  
ROOM

The children are not taught to hate Americans as people, but to despise the U.S. Government and its policies. San Andres is not typical.

DINING ROOM SEQUENCE

There are two other such plans, but most of Cuba is not as fortunate. If the experiment works, and so far the results

CHILDREN IN EVENING CLASS

have persuaded Cubans that it does, Castro will have proven his point -- that backwardness can be overcome. The fact that private farms are more productive than the state farms does not worry him. When the children grow up, they will aspire to be Communists rather than to inherit a piece of land. And in the end, Castro hopes the parents, too, will understand the Revolution. The Revolution

TRAVELING SHOT OF  
COUNTRYSIDE FROM AIRPLANE

has placed its hopes for Cuba's future (MUSIC) as a modern country in its agricultural policy, in rural education, and scientific farming. By allocating resources to the countryside, Castro expects to increase exports in order to earn the capital necessary for some industrial self-sufficiency. In the next decade, Cuba will attempt to increase sugar yields and grow other food for export, while it trains a corps of technicians. This road to development entails various

PEOPLE ON STREET IN HAVANA



VISUALAUDIO

RODRIGUEZ BEHIND DESK

PEOPLE STAND IN LINE FOR  
RATIONED FOOD

LINE IN FRONT OF RESTAURANT

EXT. FLORIDITA BAR

NIGHTCLUB SEQUENCE

hardships for the urban population, such as the scarcity of consumer goods. In Cuba, various items are rationed.

RODRIGUEZ:

We have to explain what is called food shortage, when we speak about Cuba.

NARRATOR: (VOICE OVER)

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez give his explanation for the shortages.

RODRIGUEZ:

Because what happens now first, is that very quickly the level of living has gone up for the majority of the population. Before the Revolution, for example, and we always refer to that, less than five percent of the countryside population ate meat or egg or chicken. We have now, more meat than before. In spite of all this, we don't have enough meat, enough milk, enough fish for the necessity of the masses. So we must ration. If you earn five hundred dollars or six hundred -- and many people here, functionaries and technicians have this salary -- if you want to go to a restaurant that's air conditioned and eat chateaubriand, then you pay twice that in New York. And if they want a beer they pay eighty cents for a beer. This is the kind of tax that they pay more happily than the ordinary taxes.

(MUSIC - SINGING)

VISUAL

## HAVANA SCENES

AUDIO

(MUSIC OUT)

NARRATOR:

While Havana life is far from grim, there are restrictions which the Revolution has imposed.

(GUITAR MUSIC IN)

The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution were established to combat sabotage and report on all behavior that appears suspicious. Militia men and women maintain armed vigilance over all public buildings. In addition to militia duty, men must serve three years in the army. They are exhorted to work harder, produce more, study more, be stronger, better at sports, more disciplines, militant, incorruptable.

In addition to extra work, Havana's population faced a housing shortage. But the Revolution also promised rewards -- rent was reduced to a minimum, for some it was free. Castro promised that by 1970 all rent would be abolished. The shanty towns in Havana have been bulldozed and the residents moved into new housing in East Havana. While conditions are hardly affluent, no one who works goes without food or free medical attention. And everybody works because there is a labor shortage. Every day life changes. A new product is rationed or



VISUALAUDIO

taken off rationing. Eggs are given out free of charge. Public telephones are made free. The public is mobilized to attend a rally to hear one of Cuba's leaders announce a new policy. Most of Havana has adjusted to the new and constantly changing life.

(MUSIC UP AND OUT)

(AIRPLANE JET SOUND IN)

## AIRPLANE TAXIS IN

For those Cubans for whom the Revolution is intolerable, there remains the alternative ninety miles away in Miami.

INT. WAITING ROOM AT  
VARADERO AIRPORT

The waiting room at Varadero Airport, once exclusive beach resort, now most of the air traffic consists of two flights daily, Monday through Friday, taking Cubans to Miami, a permanent ninety mile trip. In an agreement made with the United States, Castro allows approximately one thousand people to leave each week. But to apply for an exit permit can mean the immediate loss of a good job, and a long wait.

FIRST EXILE:

I have to wait for twenty months to get permission to leave. The American people don't understand perfectly what happened here. We haven't freedom here.

SECOND EXILE:

I want to go over there by my mother, and other family, you know. I don't have

VISUALAUDIO

the trouble in this country.

WOMAN EXILE (Translation):

Much of our family has left for the United States.

I'm sorry I can't answer that question because much of my family is still here, understand?

DOCUMENTS BEING PROCESSED

NARRATOR:

The Cubans stamp an exit permit. The exiles, or gusanos, worms, as the Revolutionaries call them, are allowed to take one suitcase -- all the rest remains the property of the Cuban State. U.S. Immigration officials, and a supervisor from the Swiss Embassy, which has handled U.S. affairs since the U.S. broke relations with Cuba, process the departing Cubans. Some half a million Cubans have left their country since the Revolution.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

PEOPLE WAITING

Those from the middle class lost their property and position, and saw their privileges ground under. For others, it was the inability or unwillingness to adjust to the new austerity, to militia duty, and to the scrutiny of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. For some the Revolution meant daily insecurity. It guaranteed nothing. Any day an invasion might come from the United States, or more rationing, more



VISUALAUDIO

AIRPLANE TAKING OFF

hardship.

For Castro the U.S. offer meant that all those who were dissatisfied could and should leave. It was a way of exporting the counter-revolution. But not all the counter-revolutionaries left Cuba.

INT. BAKERY - PEREZ TALKING

PEREZ (Translation:

The only thing I did was to go to the counter-revolutionary meetings.

NARRATOR:

Orestes Perez joined a sabotage group when his bakery was nationalized in 1960.

PEREZ (Translation):

They captured us by surprise and I was sentenced to ten years on the Isle of Pines by the revolutionary tribunals.

NARRATOR:

Orestes is now called "Rehabilitado", and is the production manager of a bakery. Officially there are no more political prisoners. Many have gone through some rehabilitation program, and are no longer considered politically dangerous.

PEREZ (Translation):

After three and a half years I was free.

NARRATOR:

INT. PRISON

At one time Cuba had more than twenty thousand political prisoners, in prisons like the Presidio and the Isle of Pines, where Fidel himself once occupied a cell. Anti-Castro sources quote figures of fifty thousand political prisoners. Since

VISUAL

TRUCK FULL OF CONVICTS  
GOES BY  
SIGN WHICH READS:  
"WELCOME TO THE ISLAND  
OF YOUTH"

GIRL WALKS IN FIELD

GIRL WORKING IN CITRUS GROVE  
COWBOY WITH HERD OF CATTLE

YOUNG MAN MILKING

MALENA AND FRIEND WALK  
AROUND A STATE FARM

EXT. OF STATE FARM

MALENA TALKING

AUDIO

1955, many prisoners have been released or declared rehabilitated. Thousands of others are in what Cubans call re-education programs and in work brigades in the countryside.

The Isle of Pines, once known for its prison, is not called "The Isle of Youth".

(MUSIC)

Thousands of young people plant trees, raise cattle and build houses and schools. Their goal is to make the Isle into the first model Communist society in the Americas.

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

MILKER (Translation):

I used to work in a noodle factory. Young Communists asked me here, so I'm milking cows. My efforts are more valuable here now than where I used to work, understand? In the future we won't all milk by hand. We'll be mechanized.

NARRATOR:

Malena is another example of Cuba's new youth. Trained to be a Russian translator during the industrialization period, she is now a guide for foreign delegations and militant in the Young Communist

MALENA (Translation):

Traditionally parents controlled their children even after they were grown and



VISUALAUDIO

SHOTS OF STATE FARM

LINE OF GIRLS MARCHING

BAMBOO AND OTHER GIRLS  
WAITING FOR SHOWER AT CAMP

CACHA TALKING

BAMBOO WALKING BY

GIRLS IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

CACHA TALKING

that was my situation also. After the triumph of the Revolution I left my house to go with the Literacy Brigade. And that was quite a blow to my house because I'd never gone far from the house without my mother or my aunts. This was typical of the Revolution -- young people went to the countryside and you couldn't bring mama or papa. This was the first time that I began to value a certain kind of freedom for myself.

NARRATOR:

At Camp Abra, this young woman has been nicknamed "Bamboo", because for a Cuban she is unusually slender and tall.

CACHA (Translation):

We have two hundred and four girls in our camp.

NARRATOR:

Cacha, age twenty three, is the Director of this camp that is grafting citrus trees. She has been a leader in the Young Communists for four years.

CACHA (Translation):

The girls here were mobilized by the Young Communists. They come from Havana where most of them worked in the bureaucratic sector. They took pay cuts and accepted some inconvenience to come here to work in agriculture. Some of them

VISUALAUDIO

BAMBOO TALKING

didn't work or study, but here they both work and study.

BAMBOO (Translation):

The girl in charge, Cacha, is like my mother, and my mother came to visit me here and my father, and my brothers also work on the Island.

NARRATOR:

BAMBOO GETS UP FOR FLAG  
RAISING

In the camps as well as in the schools, the flag lowering ceremony is solemnly observed.

BAMBOO (Translation):

BAMBOO TALKING

We are all equal human beings here. We all eat the same food, dance at the same parties and feel very proud of the Cuban Revolution, and ready to fight and after a little while we'll have Communism in Cuba, and this Island will actually be the first part of Cuba that will achieve Communism because of the effort of the youth.

MAIL IS HANDED OUT

(MUSIC)

DINNER

(WOMEN TALKING IN SPANISH)

NARRATOR:

In addition to regular camp life, girls have military drill, sports, theatre, and a chorus. They also have a day to spend at the beach or the movie theatre that they constructed themselves. At

EXT. NIGHTCLASS UNDER TREE

night, for those who can keep their eyes open, there are classes. Bamboo takes a class on getting the most out of a news-



VISUALAUDIO

BAMBOO GOING TO BED

BAMBOO WORKING IN CITRUS  
GROVEBUZZARD FLYING TO A TREE  
TREES AT SUNSET FROM A  
MOVING CARCARNIVAL PREPARATIONS AT  
SUNSET

PEOPLE DANCING ON STREET

CABARET SHOW

NIGHT SCENES IN THE STREET

DAWN SHOT OF EMPTY STREET

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAY

CROWD LISTENING TO 26TH OF  
JULY SPEECH

CASTRO SPEAKING

paper. The class reads aloud from "Granma", one of the government-controlled dailies.

Castro counts on the youth for his greatest support. So far they have responded with zeal and hard work, in part filling the labor shortage that was created in the transition to Cuban Socialism.

(MUSIC OUT)

(FLUTE MUSIC IN)

The Revolution has changed almost every aspect of Cuban life. But each year in Santiago de Cuba, the traditional Carnival still takes place in July.

(MUSIC)

(CASTRO TALKING OVER LOUDSPEAKER)

NARRATOR:

The day after the Carnival, hundreds of thousands gather to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of Fidel Castro's attack on Fort Moncada. And each year, Castro makes at least a two hour speech in which he reviews events and clarifies policies. His speeches are one of the few institutions in modern Cuba.

VISUALAUDIODESNOES:

I think he's always been the political consciousness of the Revolution, heh?

(APPLAUSE)

DESNOES

I think he's identified himself completely with the Revolution, that Fidel is the Revolution, that the Revolution is Fidel.

CROWN APPLAUDING

(APPLAUSE TURNS INTO RYTHMIC CLAPPING)

NARRATOR:

LOCKWOOD PHOTOGRAPHING CASTRO Photojournalist Lee Lockwood, spent more than a week with Fidel Castro during the preparation of his book, "Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel".

LOCKWOOD:

EXT. LOCKWOOD ON CHAIR

One of the things we talked about at very great length was the institutionalization of the Revolution. Castro at that time seemed to hold almost all of the important power in his hands, and the Revolution really depended on him alone. I find that coming back now in '67 there has been very little change in this respect. Castro continues to be the indispensable man in the Revolution, and its quite obvious just to see the way that he moves around and involves himself in almost every kind of activity. As far as I'm concerned, the people are behind Castro in the very large majority. I've always felt that the Cuban people became Communist because of their love for Castr

CASTRO SPEAKING

LOCKWOOD ON CHAIR

NIGHT - CROWD



VISUAL

CASTRO SPEAKING

AUDIO

because they...

(CASTRO SPEAKING IN BACKGROUND)

were following him and not because they were convinced to begin with that this was the right kind of institution or the right kind of ideology.

CASTRO (Translation):

We believe that our country in spite of the blockade, in spite of all the maneuvers, in spite of all the tricks, not only is capable of defending itself from all the political intrigues, from all the maneuvers, from all aggressions of imperialism, and also, what's more interesting, in the midst of all this and perhaps as a surprise to those same imperialists, those that thought they could sink us our country at this time is reaching a rapid and impressive rhythm of growth.

(APPLAUSE)

NARRATOR:

New York Times Associate Editor, James Reston, was in Havana.

RESTON:

RESTON

I think in fairness to Castro you have to say that he has made a good beginning here, in many, many ways. There is a sense of a common life here, which may be due to the all-pervasive propaganda. But despite the coercion, and there is a great deal more than he admits, there

VISUALAUDIO

CROWDS

is an enthusiasm. He has not only created a general sense of revolution, but has a revolution within a revolution with the women, and particularly with the young. I think he's got the support of his people. I don't think we should kid ourselves about this. In a way he has hypnotized this island.

RESTON

What I simply do not understand is why, in the middle of this, he diverts attention away to questions of Vietnam, the American cities, the Andes, the problems of Bolivia, the guerilla wars -- all over the place. The only possible explanation I can think of is that he is using the old technique of the foreign bogey, the excitement of the possible U.S. invasion of the island, to get people to work hard. But I think that when he talks about ideology, I don't think that he's following somebody else's line.

EXT. - CROWD LISTENING

CASTRO (Translation):

If the imperialists believe that we follow a convenient revolutionary line at the expense of others, they are mistaken.

NARRATOR:

CASTRO SPEAKING

At each 26th of July, Castro reminds his audience that of why the Revolution must be pursued. It is because, he says, of U.S. imperialism, the ever present



VISUALAUDIO"LA COUBRE" MONUMENT

NEWSREEL FOOTAGE  
(black & white)

enemy of Cuba. He reminds them of past U.S.-Cuban history.

In 1960 a munitions ship, "La Coubre", was blown up in Havana Harbor, for which Castro blamed the CIA and organized the People's Militia. In Castro's eyes, the U.S. Congress...cut the Cuban sugar quota in retaliation for Cuba's revolutionary acts, some of which involved U.S. property. Castro in turn, retaliated by nationalizing U.S.-owned industry. The Soviet Union came to Castro's aid. It offered to buy Cuban sugar and to provide arms. In January 1961, Castro reviewed his militia and the new Soviet weapons, and demanded that the U.S. Embassy, which he accused of being a front for espionage, reduce its staff to eleven. The U.S. broke diplomatic relations. Cuba accused the United States of provocation, especially at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, in eastern Cuba. In April, 1961, came the event that Castro called the confrontation. Fifteen hundred Cuban exiles, trained, equipped and financed by the CIA, invaded Cuba in The Bay of Pigs at a beach called Giron. Shortly after The Bay of Pigs, Castro proclaimed the Cuban Revolution Socialist, and himself, a Marxist-Leninist.

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BOYS PLAYING IN BOMBED HOUSE

SHOTS OF GIRON

INT. PRISONERS ARE  
USHERED IN

CASTRO AT PODIUM

PRISONERS ARE QUESTIONED

Today a few of the houses destroyed in the invasion are left as reminders to the Cubans who now use Playa Giron as a resort and as a fishing school for young boys. The abortive invasion was the last major attempt with U.S. support to overthrow the Castro government.

But Cuban security agents periodically capture Cuban exiles, some of whom have stated that they were CIA agents.

CASTRO (Translation):

The group came to this country to assassinate a government leader. Does the United States Government not feel responsible for these acts? We directly accuse the U.S. Government and hold it responsible for these acts.

We accuse President Johnson and hold him responsible for the fact that with absolute impunity, in the United States plans are drawn up for the assassination of government leaders of another state.

NARRATOR:

These prisoners were captured in various parts of Cuba. The Cuban Government invited the foreign press to question the prisoners, all of whom had already been sentenced to long terms. Gonzales Migoya claimed that the CIA recruited him in 1964 after he defected from Cuba. He made more than twenty secret landings, most of which, he said, were designed



VISUALAUDIO

to help dissatisfied Cubans escape.

Rabel Nunez was captured in 1965.

JOURNALIST:

Do you know anything about any plans to make more large or small invasions on the island of Cuba?

PRISONER:

Well it seems to be known that anytime they can find three or four or five Cubans who are willing to come, as long as there is no American involved, they are willing to send them over.

NARRATOR:

The U.S. State Department took no official notice of this display in Havana. The appearance of the prisoners was held in conjunction with the first meeting of the OLAS, the "Organization of Latin American Solidarity". The Cuban Government initiated this Conference, which brought together revolutionaries from all parts of Latin America and the world.

They came to hammer out a strategy of revolution, the only way, in their view, to conquer underdevelopment, and defeat Yankee imperialism. The duty of each revolutionary is to make the revolution.

CROWD APPLAUDING AT OLAS

This is the slogan of the Conference, (MUSIC) painted on the Hotel Havana Libre.

(MUSIC CONTINUING)

INT. OLAS DELEGATES

Soviet and Chinese delegates did not

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attend, even as observers. Many Latin American Communists who follow the Soviet line, were also absent. But most of Cuba's leadership that has remained from the Sierra Maestra in the underground days, were present. In addition, Stokely Carmichael of the United States, and the National Liberation Front, the Viet Cong of South Vietnam, were honored guests.

(MUSIC)

(APPLAUSE)

DORTICOS (Translation):

DORTICOS AT PODIUM

Fellow delegates to the first Conference of Latin American Solidarity, the vanguards of the revolutionary movement have taken up the redeeming rifle.

NARRATOR:

Revolutionary armed struggle, says Cuba's President, is the only road to the liberation of Latin America. This is necessary, Dorticos argues, because the United States chooses armed struggle and violence to suppress revolution everywhere. Dorticos included in his address a message of solidarity to U.S. Negroes, whom he said were fighting in the same struggle.

AUDIENCE SHOTS

DORTICOS (Translation):

And we send a special greeting of deep admiration and affection to our comrade in arms Commandant Ernesto Che Guevara:



VISUALAUDIO

Country or death, we shall triumph.

(APPLAUSE)

(MUSIC)

NARRATOR:

In October, 1967, Guevara was reported killed by the Bolivian Army. The report of his death, while a blow to the Latin American guerillas, does not necessarily mean that the policies adopted at the OLAS Conference will be abandoned. The majority opted for guerilla war. Those delegates who adhered to the Soviet line, however, rejected the approach of creating more Vietnams in Latin America.

NARRATOR:

PEOPLE IN LOBBY

Foreign journalists covering the OLAS were also divided in their views about the Conference. James Reston:

RESTON:

RESTON

I have not been impressed with the OLAS group, frankly. It seemed to me that they are the sort of driftwood of the Communist Movement. They are not only living and working outside the normal framework of government within their own countries, but to a very large extent they are living outside the framework of the Communist Party as well. They've been almost as critical of the established Communist parties as they have been of the United States, as if

VISUAL

BURCHETTE

AUDIO

indeed the Communist parties have gotten old and tired and conservative.

NARRATOR:

Wilfred Burchette, an Australian Communist reporter, has covered the war in Vietnam with Viet Cong guerillas..

BURCHETTE:

If these guerilla movements reach a certain state, probably American power will move in, and I think they of course, they obviously realize this too -- those revolutionary movements in Latin America which believe in armed struggle and believe the moment is ripe. In South Vietnam they have pushed guerilla warfare to an entirely new level, a combination of political and military warfare based on support from the people, and if the corrent lessons are learned from this in countries of Latin America where the conditions are ripe, then it will be another one, two, three or more Vietnams, as Che Guevara has expressed it.

RESTON:

RESTON

It's not, as I understand it, that we are trying to smash his Revolution. If he wishes to have it within his own island, that's all right. If he wishes to export it and begins to export it effectively, then I think, and only then, would the United States begin to think about sterner measures against Cuba.



VISUAL

CASTRO AT PODIUM

PAN ALONG DELEGATES

AUDIOCASTRO (Translation):

There is a much wider movement on this Continent than that of just the Communist parties of Latin America. We are committed to that wide movement, and we shall judge the conduct of organizations not by what they say they are, but what they prove they are -- by what they do, by their conduct.

(APPLAUSE)

NARRATOR:

Castro defied the Soviet line despite the fact that the Soviet Union supplies Cuba with three hundred fifty million dollars a year in aid.

(CASTRO CONTINUES SPEAKING UNDER)

Although some of the delegates called for resolutions openly condemning the Soviet policy of seeking friendly relations with some Latin American governments, Castro urged that a public split be avoided, but he is determined to carry out his early promise of transplanting the seeds of the Sierra Maestra into the Andes. Castro has linked the future of the Cuban Revolution with revolution in the third world, although he knows that this will mean further confrontation with the United States. With his group of ex-guerilla fighters, he has made enormous changes in Cuba, but he has said that it would be a

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CASTRO AT PODIUM

betrayal of revolutionary ideals not to support in all ways the revolutionaries of Latin America in armed struggle. But he also leaves the door slightly ajar for those countries in which armed struggle has not yet begun.

CASTRO (Translation):

No one can be so sectarian, so dogmatic as to say that everywhere one has to go out and grab a rifle tomorrow. And we ourselves do not doubt that there are some countries where this task is not an immediate task. But we are convinced that it will be the task in the long run

(MUSIC)

NARRATOR:

FLAGS

POSTER

CHILDREN COMING OUT OF  
SCHOOL

POSTER

COWBOY ON A HORSE

POSTER

CHILDREN PLAYING ON BEACH

HAVANA COAST

If the economically depressed peoples of Latin America respond to the call for armed struggle, Castro and Che Guevara, alive or dead, may indeed help to create more Vietnams, for they are lighting a match to an inflammable situation, of hunger and exploitation in Latin America. The Revolution has made its mark inside Cuba. It has accomplished a great deal in the countryside, in education, in re-distributing the wealth. Many individuals have been hurt in the carrying out of revolutionary policies, and hardships still exist. In the long run, Cuba's future will be shaped not only by Castro, but also by



VISUAL

AUDIO

Cuban-U.S. relations, which in turn  
will affect the course of political  
and economic change throughout Latin  
America.

(MUSIC)

\* \* \*

VISUALS (OVER GENERAL FOOTAGE):

CREDITS OVER SHOT OF CASTRO  
GETTING UP TO THE PODIUM

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