

THE BATTALION

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the world

bans celebrate revolution anniversary.

United Press Internationa MIAMI — At dawn on July 26, 953, Fidel Castro and a band of guerillas staged an abortive attack on Cuba's Moncada Garrison that made Castro a criminal and sent him into hiding in the nearby nountains

The bearded Cuban president re-trurned to "the cradle of the revoluion" in Santiago de Cuba Wedneslay to celebrate the 25th anniverary of his revolutionary movement and praise those who died in the kirmish. The 26th of July celebration came

when once-thawing U.S.-Cuba rela-ions appeared to be near their lowest point since President Carter ook office

Unlike the mass rallies of previ-

ous years, Castro spoke Wednesday before 17,000 carefully chosen dele-was guaranteed he would not be executed. gates at the old garrison, now called the 26th of July School City.

The garrison audience included "1,500 outstanding members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution" and 1,000 delegates to the 11th annual World Youth Festival, which gets under way Friday in Havana.

Preparations for the youth festival and its 20,000 international delegates have overshadowed the an-niversary of Castro's revolution, which in years past has been the island nation's major holiday.

After days of hiding in the mountains following the 1953 attack, Castro finally surrendered to Fulgencio Batista's forces when he

Castro was imprisoned in the Isle of Pines, but was pardoned by Batista and exiled to Mexico, where he organized another attack in December 1956 which — after two years of guerrilla fighting in the mountains — toppled the Batista government and brought Castro to power on Jan. 1, 1959.

Participants in this week's celebrations include Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and Mrs. Salvador Allende, widow of the leftist Chilean president, along with Communist leaders from

around the world. Workers in Santiago de Cuba and Havana have spent months sprucing up buildings and repairing streets in

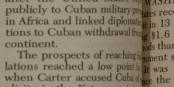
advance of the anniversary and the week-long youth festival.

Havana Radio recently reported the capital city was being turned into a "beautiful and warm headquarters" for the festival.

The flurry of construction also is aimed at luring American tourists and their dollars to the Caribbean island. U.S. tour groups began visit-ing the island last year after Carter allowed a travel ban to expire.

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