

## Sister's Attack Believed Shaking Faith in Castro

MEXICO CITY, July 4 (AP).—Cuban exiles here feel that Juanita Castro's defection will strengthen their cause and stir confusion inside Cuba.

In the eyes of the exiles, the defection and statement of the sister that worked closest with Prime Minister Fidel Castro in his early days all but officially confirm what they have been saying and should lend credence to their future exposes.

Miss Castro, 31, came here June 20. Last Wednesday she took to Mexican television with charges of mass arrests, executions, and a shocking decline in living conditions since her brother's rise to power in 1959.

In Cuba, the exiles say, rumors buzz about the defection and they at least are causing confusion and perhaps some second thoughts among Cubans about Fidel.

### At Odds With Brother

Almost a dozen exile organizations with a total membership of about 3,000 are active in Mexico. Because of Mexican law banning activities against a "friendly country" they do not operate openly.

Exile leaders are not in agreement on all points, but those in the know confirm that Juanita's decision was not an emotional and sudden one.

Most agree with reports that she has been at odds with Fidel for years, maybe since 1960. They also confirm that Raul Castro, Cuban armed forces minister and deputy prime minister, has saved her in the past.

### Helped Fidel Rise

Her background is well known here: She was the only one of the four sisters who actively backed Fidel in his early days, and as a result was exiled by Dictator Fulgencia Batista. She worked with Fidel in his early years, here and in Cuba.

But after he took power in Cuba, Fidel and Juanita began having trouble. She did not approve mass executions and arrests, particularly of former comrades. She tried to help many members of Fidel's July

26 organization escape prison and then from Cuba itself.

Exiles, however, do not confirm that she worked with the United States Central Intelligence Agency during these years of conflict. Nor do they agree with Mr. Castro's charges that her defection statement was written by the United States Embassy in Mexico. Embassy spokesmen also deny this.

But exiles do agree with Mr. Castro's charges that he did not let her "become a millionairess." Mr. Castro said he did not permit relatives to get rich through special benefits and privileges.

Exiles here contend she was active in the insurance business, in selling cattle, and in other fields which annoyed Fidel.

### Raul Intervened

When he found she was also helping anti-Castro revolutionaries, the situation became tense and only the intervention of Raul saved her from serious difficulties—perhaps, some say, even execution. Execution of a relative, exiles say, would have been a sour note for Latins who consider family ties basically important.

Despite her troubles, she remained active in Cuba and made numerous trips abroad, almost always carrying heavy luggage.

Her recent decision to break with Castro, one source said, was because of her "conscience." Others say she saw the handwriting on the wall.

There are some minor disagreements: Some say her defection is a blind and that she will actually act abroad as an underground agent for Castro. But few believe this.

WASHINGTON STAR

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## Juanita vs. Fidel

It is not unknown in this world that some sisters turn against some brothers, and vice versa. But the story of Juanita Castro's defection from Fidel and his Cuban Red tyranny is in a class by itself.

The sensationalism involved is merely incidental. Miss Castro, her eyes filled with tears, her voice quavering, has read on a Mexico City television program a long statement unreservedly denouncing Fidel and her other Red brother, Raul, who seems in some ways to be even more repulsive. As she has put it, the regime headed by these two is a regime of treason and betrayal. It has made the colossal lie, subversion and terrorism instruments of national policy at home and abroad. It has sold out to the Soviets. It has outlawed all the basic human freedoms. It has brutalized everyday living. It has made a ghastly shambles of the country's economy. And the Cuban people, as a result, "are nailed to a cross of torment."

In Miss Castro's judgment the entire hemisphere has reason to regard this malignancy as a menace of the first magnitude, and the Organization of American States should act firmly against it. Never has a sister been more severely critical of a brother, and never with greater justification. The historical significance of her statement—which is not spoiled by the report that she has long been in contact with the United States Central Intelligence Agency—is that it can hardly fail to have a wholesome impact on hemispheric public opinion, which in the past has too often taken a soft view of Fidel and been skeptical of those who have charged him—and rightly—with grave crimes.

Juanita thus has rendered good service in speaking out as she has against him. She has done so with authority, the product of intimate knowledge and bearing experience. The world should listen.

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Woman  
In the  
News

JUANITA  
CASTRO

By HELEN DUDAR

Juanita Castro's big brother announced his total commitment to communism in 1961 on a day that she was later to describe to intimates as the blackest

of her life. She cried all day, a friend reports.

Toars are feeble political weapons, however, and

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no one knew. Approved For Release 2003/11/04 : CIA-RDP67B00446R000100130077-9  
In common with her brother, Juanita Castro shares a family strain of iron will and reckless bravery. She dried her tears and, on an apparently heroic scale, set about undermining the Communist regime of Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba.

Until Juanita Castro fled—turning up in Mexico City last week as Cuba's latest and most celebrated exile—she was one of the anti-Fidolista underground's most energetic agents. She fed information to CIA operatives on the island. She found hiding places for men on the run, smuggled food and supplies to them and helped them out of the country.

"Juanita has actively helped hundreds to escape," according to an exile leader in Miami.

No one knows what this family conflict has cost her; part of the price was marked on the handsome face that appeared before Mexican TV cameras last week when she denounced her brother's regime. Fidel's junior by nearly seven years, she looked a good deal older than 31 despite the youthfully chic hair style and finely tailored suit.

To Castro, the flight of Juanita, albeit "profoundly painful," was "the price of being a revolutionary." It would never have happened, he said the other day in Havana, if he had been "one of those rulers who make millionaires out of their relatives."

Indeed, Juanita's mercenary instincts are not altogether irrelevant to her story. She has never married, and a Cuban admirer reports that she has always been a somewhat formidable figure to potential suitors. Tall and big-boned, she appears to be, temperamentally, a woman born to dominate. Her bent is managerial and her aspirations bluntly middle-class. She has been known to bait Fidel with the flat declaration that she opposed communism because "I am a member of the bourgeoisie."

★ ★ ★

The Castro clan worked hard to reach that status. Old Angel Castro, who died in 1956, was an 1898 immigrant from Spain. His first job was hefting a pick and shovel for the United Fruit Co. Somehow, and it is unclear just how, he became owner of vast sugar cane lands in Mayari in Cuba's Oriente Province.

His wife was an even more remarkable figure. An unschooled domestic, Lina Ruz Gonzales, who bore seven children—three sons and four daughters—was tough, resourceful and amazingly competent. In times of trouble, she patrolled the family *finca* on horseback with two .45s in holsters strapped around her waist. Ultimately, she managed

the place and the family. Ambitious for her children, she saw to it that each was sent to Havana for a good education.

Juanita—baptized Juana—spent her classroom years in an Ursuline convent boarding school in the elegant Miramar section. She emerged and remained a devout Catholic. Among the beneficiaries of her later underground work were nuns she helped spirit out of Cuba.

After finishing school, Juanita returned to Mayari to help run the *finca*. Later, venturing into business, she opened a little rural movie house nearby.

By the time she was 24, Fidel was in the hills, waging guerrilla war against Cuban dictator Batista, and Juanita was a fervent Fidelista. She spent months scouring the United States and Mexico for funds to support the fight.

before Castro's victory, she tried to return to Miami from Mexico and discovered that the State Dept. had canceled her visa. Resourcefully, Juanita hired a cab and rode across the Texas border in the trunk. The authorities started deportation proceedings, but Juanita went back voluntarily.

With the revolution triumphant in Cuba, Juanita launched two businesses, neither of which could survive the break with the U. S. and the race toward socialization. She set up an insurance agency and a movie supply firm. The American business man who furnished the capital for the second venture journeyed to Havana to find, to his dismay, that he was not, as he had expected, head of the firm. "You can't be president," he recalls her telling him. "You're a *Norte Americano*. I will be president."

In any event, for a short time she reportedly reaped rich profits selling movie cameras and projectors to the island's schools until Premier Castro learned about it. Breathing fire, he stepped in and put an end to the business.

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A few years later, Juanita turned up in what seemed to be a wholly uncharacteristic role: proprietor of a boarding house for girls from the University of Havana. As far as the girls knew, for \$60 a month in a rambling residence next door to a Chinese laundry they were being comfortably housed and fed by the Premier's sister.

The landlady seemed to spend a lot of time in "the little cold room," an air-conditioned study in the back of the house, where Juanita read, played records of classical Spanish music and received visits from nuns and priests of a nearby church.

The quiet life proved to be a splendid cover for underground work. One exile was hidden in the house for months before he could be sent along an escape route. Another recalled the other day that when he was trapped on the streets, a fugitive with no place to go, "Juanita took me to a safe house. I stayed there for a month, and then she helped me into an embassy for asylum."

On an island Juanita describes as "a prison," it's unlikely that all of her activities escaped official notice. Apparently she was tolerated because she is Raul Castro's favorite sister—Raul is Fidel's favorite brother and No. 2 man in the government—because she was useful to high government officials who wanted an escape route for their own friends and because strong-willed old Lina Castro provided a maternal barrier to a messy public display of family ideological differences.

The old lady died last November. After the funeral, Juanita traveled down to the Castro farmhouse on what, depending on the source, was either a sentimental or a material mission. One says she went to collect the family papers, the other that she hastened to sell off the family cattle before the state stepped in and appropriated all the holdings.

Fidel reportedly went after her in a flaming rage, and she vanished into hiding until he cooled off. After that, even Raul couldn't shield her indefinitely from the likelihood of official retaliation; he is presumed to have paved the way for her open departure—with nearly two dozen pieces of luggage—from Havana by air on June 20.

Her future plans are uncertain, but a fellow exile, in Miami, who spoke to her by telephone after the Mexican telecast, had no doubt at all about her general attitude. "She will spend her time—all her time—"fighting Fidel."

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