

Seven hundred prisoners of the Castro-government in Cuba wait in the Cabana fortress for their turn to come to trial for the war crimes they've been charged with by the new regime.

And while they wait they talk, perhaps for the last time, to their families and the lawyers who'll defend them.

It's a grim wait. ~~For~~ Most of them ~~the trials can only end one way~~ ^{can look forward only to} ~~in a~~ firing squad. ^{holding probably his}

~~This could well have been~~ Ernesto de la Fe ^{of} last press conference...

Before the revolution, he was Batista's Minister of Information. now he waits in the cabana.

~~While~~ Following ~~the~~ world criticism of the summary trials and executions of Batista supporters, ~~Dr~~ Castro staged a new-style referendum outside the Presidential Palace.

Upwards of a million Cubans (five-sixths of ~~the~~ ^{Havana's} population) gathered to give their verdict ~~as to~~ whether the trials ^{& executions} should continue.

And there didn't seem to be much doubt ~~as to~~ what the verdict would be.

Giant banners ^{urged} ~~demanded~~ that the executions ^{should go on} ~~take place~~ - a mammoth

Cuban flag was carried by the ~~entire~~ mob ~~and~~ with the revolutionary 26th of July pennants.

When Castro himself battled through the crowd they went wild. Excitement

rose to fever pitch as the lawyer they acclaim as their liberator

asked the people "Should the trials continue ~~in the Havana Sports~~

~~stadia?~~ ~~There the stands are smaller but no less emotional.~~

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~~Yes~~ "Yes" was their answer. ~~But~~ in spite of this ~~Dr Castro has stopped the~~ circus - the trials will continue but not in public.

The people's answer was an emphatic yes. But though the trials go on they are no longer a public spectacle in the Havana Sports Coliseum. /