

26-1-59

News of the Day

January 22, 1959, Vol. 30-245

### CUBANS BACK NEW REGIME!

In front of the Presidential Palace in Havana - and it seems - as far as the eye can see: Cubans! Upwards of a million, five-sixths of the population of this capital city, nearly one of every six persons on the island. Why are they here? Fidel Castro asked them.

They come with a mammoth Cuban flag, the revolutionary 26th of July pennants and a variety of emotions.

Castro had been criticized - especially in the U. S. - for summary courts-martial and executions of Batista followers. He said he wanted to know how his countrymen felt on the subject. This hysterical reception of the 32-year-old rebel leader is his answer.

A graduate lawyer, Dr. Castro displays an eloquence and personal dynamism that completely sways the enormous throng.

Given this mandate, the war crimes trials will proceed - in the Havana Sports Stadium, where the crowds are smaller but no less emotional.