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News of the Day  
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CUBA'S OWN "TRIAL OF THE CENTURY"!

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In Havana, representatives of the foreign press hear rebel leader Fidel Castro uphold summary courts-martial in reprisal against members of the former Batista regime. He says 400 will face firing squads, and here at Cuba's military prison, where relatives wait in long line to visit prisoners, there are some 700 awaiting trial - each hour, each wondering perhaps whether he will be among those who will escape quick justice, which Fidel Castro defends by citing the 20 thousand Cubans he says were killed by the Batista regime.

Now, to the Sports Palace, where 17 thousand watch in a carnival setting as a three-man revolutionary tribunal sits in judgement at Havana's first war-crimes trial. They confront three former Batista Army officers accused of 200 murders. Rarely has the newsreel camera looked in on a more dramatically explosive setting. Correspondents file news copy which rivals fiction; for example, the quote: "I'm in a Roman Colosseum" -- Those words from the lips of the first defendant at the show trial: Major Sosa Blanco, age 51, accused of murder, torture, robbery. Before the judges, a parade of witnesses. One is a 12-year-old, Angelio Estrada. Against Blanco's protests: "I am not a murderer. I am a military man, who carried out orders in wartime." Points the accusing finger: "He killed my father." Evidence builds while the gallery shrieks: "kill him! Kill him!" 13 hours later, Blanco is convicted, sentenced to die. The proceedings will move to a simpler setting - but not before the Sports Palace showtrial draws criticism abroad.