

October 16, 1960
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somewhere in Havana near his house. During the ^{trial} everyone was presented as caught with Sinecio's group up in arms in the Escambray, and that Guillermo was caught when running away. Actually, some of them never arrived to Sinecio's camp. Some reports state that Sinecio's group fought off the attack until they ran out of ammunition and then surrendered. Other reports say that there was not much fighting because apparently the camp was covered with a gas that rendered them useless, that a dog was then let loose to track them down and all of them were arrested without much of a resistance. Also, some reports state that Sinecio killed Benvides before during an argument over the arms that were dropped and which Sinecio claimed were for him. It seems there was more than just one drop, since the drop on Sept. 29 which was secured by the militia in "La Campana", and that subsequent drops have been received by Riso and Duques's groups. During the ~~trial~~ a communist goon squad was organized and sent on October 11 to cry "Pardon", but the people in general from Santa Clara ~~was~~ definitely with the prisoners, and on October 12 started a mass concentration to ask for mercy and commutation of the death sentence, but the same communist goon squads cornered the open concentration into a church and did not allow them to proceed. It is not clear whether information on the Escambray and Guillermo leaked out before or after the trial, but evidently much of it has leaked out and everybody is afraid and under cover, waiting to see how deep infiltration has been accomplished. There has been a tremendous demoralization among the groups connected with the Escambray action and the people in general, but it has consolidated the counter-revolutionary groups at least in that sense. It seems that the groups up in arms in Escambray: Riso, best organized, Duque, and others are together and coordinating their efforts. That there has been more fighting in Escambray since the trial, and the militia and/or army has not been able to take over these groups, who are fighting back indicating a coordinated action and possession of arms and ammunition which they did not seem to have before, assumed received from subsequent successful drops.

Observation: Guillermo never did accomplish his mission as he never did arrive to the groups up in arms in the Escambray as Military Coordinator for the Company. However, his death has achieved the unification of that front, and a general awakening of the people in general, especially in Santa Clara. Of all the people sentenced to death, Guillermo was the only one with a clear vision of his place in history and a common objective. The others did not have any idealism and were simple group leaders. Guillermo did not talk during the trial and did not offer any comments for or against. The prisoners were not tortured or even abused, except by word of mouth. The tribunal postponed the death sentence three times on October 12, despite the fact that there was an evident personal reason for killing Guillermo in particular who had always opposed and stood in front of Fidel Castro and against communism since their university days. Evidently, the jury was skeptical of the political consequences such death sentences would create among the Cuban people in general, especially when Guillermo and some of the other ones were actually framed and made appear to be up in arms with Sinecio. Before the firing squad Guillermo stated that "I have trust in God and in the people". They were executed with automatic guns and Guillermo and some of them had an instant death at 9:00 p.m. on October 12, a little distance from "La Campana" Hq. The bodies were returned to Santa Clara cemetery, but it is not yet known if they have been returned to the family.

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