

Castro Flashes Quick Change

By Rennie Airth

Reuters

HAVANA, July 30 —Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro is a man of many moods and they follow each other so quickly that people not used to the bearded leader's volatile personality are often bewildered by his sudden change from one extreme to another.

A group of American reporters invited to Cuba for the July 26 celebrations this week in Santiago and resident correspondents here

had a real opportunity to see the Premier at close quarters.

During three days they saw him playing baseball, addressing a crowd of 200,000 people, answering questions at a press conference and chatting informally with Cuban citizens.

In this period, the Prime Minister's mood varied from backslapping friendliness to outright anger.

At the baseball game, in which he pitched four scoreless innings against a team of American and Canadian students, Castro became ab-

sorbed in the competition and had no time for reporters and photographers clustering round him.

The next day he roused the crowd at the July 26 celebration to a frenzy with a threat to fire back at American sentries at Guantanamo if another Cuban guard were shot.

Castro delivered much of the speech in impassioned tones and spoke of other Latin American leaders as "murderers, gorillas and feudal lords."

American visitors who had been struck by his show of anger were astonished an hour or so after the speech to see Castro arrive at their hotel and, broadly smiling and in his best humor, chat with dozens of people who quickly gathered round him.

The Premier urged the hotel staff to "look after our guests well" and told the Americans he was glad to see them.

Then noticing photographers preparing to take pictures, he playfully pulled a

of Moods

Visiting Newsmen Get Ringside Seat at Show

young Negro woman out of the crowd, flung his arm around her and said, "Let's give them a good propaganda picture."

The following day at a press conference, Castro was in an edgy mood, apparently uncomfortable with the formality of the conference.

But he replied courteously and patiently to a large number of questions and only occasionally showed irritation.

It is rare that the press has a chance to see Castro con-

tinuously over a period of days.

The Prime Minister has no office, no fixed residence and more often than not government officials will admit they do not know where he is.

Castro has at least two homes in Havana, a modest apartment and a farm on the outskirts of the city, and other residences elsewhere in the country.

But he appears to live and work out of a fleet of American motor cars which are on

hand in major cities of Cuba to take him wherever he wants to go.

The Premier's constant companion is Dr. Rene Vallejo, a middle-aged Cuban surgeon who is Castro's friend, confidant and doctor.

Castro's living habits are irregular and subject to change at the last moment. He sleeps when he is tired, which might not be for 36 hours at a stretch. He usually has to be reminded to eat but when he does he consumes big meals.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, July 31, 1964 A 23



United Press International

FIDEL CASTRO

... man of many moods