

# U.S. Denies Claim Guard Shot Cuban

*P.M.  
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HAVANA, July 20 (UPI) — Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro charged today that U.S. Marine guards at Guantanamo Naval Base shot and killed a 19-year-old Cuban sentry at dusk last night with two bullets in the neck.

The U.S. State Department denied the charge and said an investigation by the base commander disclosed that one shot was fired over the head of a group of Cuban sentries after one of them first at a Marine guard.

Observation of the Cuban post about 10 yards away, a

State spokesman said, indicated that no one was seriously injured.

## U.S. Protests

The States Department spokesman said the United States was protesting to the Cuban Government about the shot fired at the Marine guard.

Radio Havana said the dead Cuban sentry would be buried tonight at Guantanamo City, near the base, with Raul Castro delivering the funeral oration. Newsmen were invited.

It was the third such incident claimed by Cuban in the past six weeks, but the first in which a sentry was killed. The Cuban Government charged that a sentry was shot in the leg June 9 and another in the chest June 25, both times by shots allegedly fired from inside the Guantanamo Base.

Asked whether he thought the whole affair was staged for propaganda purposes, the State Department spokesman said only that "the facts speak for themselves."

## As OAS Meets

The Cuban charge came on the eve of the Organization of American States (OAS) meeting opening in Washington Tuesday to consider hemispheric sanctions against the Cuban regime of Fidel Castro.

Cuban economic chief Ernesto (Che) Guevara lashed out violently at the OAS and the U.S. twice over the weekend. Speaking at the opening of a bicycle factory, he called the OAS "the ministry of colonies" of the United States.

Guevara said Cuba faces a "fight to the death" because the U.S. is trying to liquidate the Cuban Communist regime.

"If we haven't been invaded already it is because we have strong friends, including the socialist bloc of nations with the Soviet Union at the head."