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JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

The Dark Past of Castro

The story brought to Mexico by Juana Castro, Fidel's sister, which stressed the degradation of Cuba under the Communists, is sordid enough in all conscience.

But it is only the social and economic extension, so to speak, of a festering family saga that rivals some of the dark legends of ancient Greece for its Freudian hatreds and evil doings.

Fidel Castro hated his father. Fidel was one of a brood that was born out of wedlock. His mother, a practical lady named Alma Ruz Gonzalez, was the family cook—and Fidel, along with some of his brothers and sisters, was only legitimized after his father's first wife had died.



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A Long Quarrel

Juana and another sister, Emma, came along after the cook had become the legally married mother.

The bad blood among the Castros caused by quarrels over legitimacy long pre-dates the revolution.

However, though Alma Ruz Gonzalez loved her sons Fidel and Raul as her offspring, she always hated their Marxism. She even referred to them as "lazy Socialist bums".

And she had the temerity to say, even after the revolution, that she liked the old dictator Batista for having spared her son's life when a death penalty for treasonable activity might have been declared against Fidel.

Juana Castro is not the first sister of Fidel to defect to Mexico. When sister Emma wanted to go to Mexico to be married, Che Guevara, the Communist economic czar of Cuba, refused to give her the necessary foreign exchange. It was only after Juana and her mother made a terrific family issue of it that Emma was permitted to depart.

Assassination Plot

Meanwhile the Cuban refugees continue to have bad luck in their attempts to rid their homeland of the Muscovite plague.

The guerrilla invasion of Manuel Ray, scheduled for May 20, had been timed to coincide with an assassination attempt on Castro from inside the Cuban National Police.

But the assassins' plans miscarried. Samuel Rodiles, aide to the Cuban chief of police, had to flee the country in a motorboat.

He is now being held incommunicado in the U. S. Manuel Ray had to call off his landing, for Castro had been thoroughly alerted to everything when Rodiles took it on the lam.