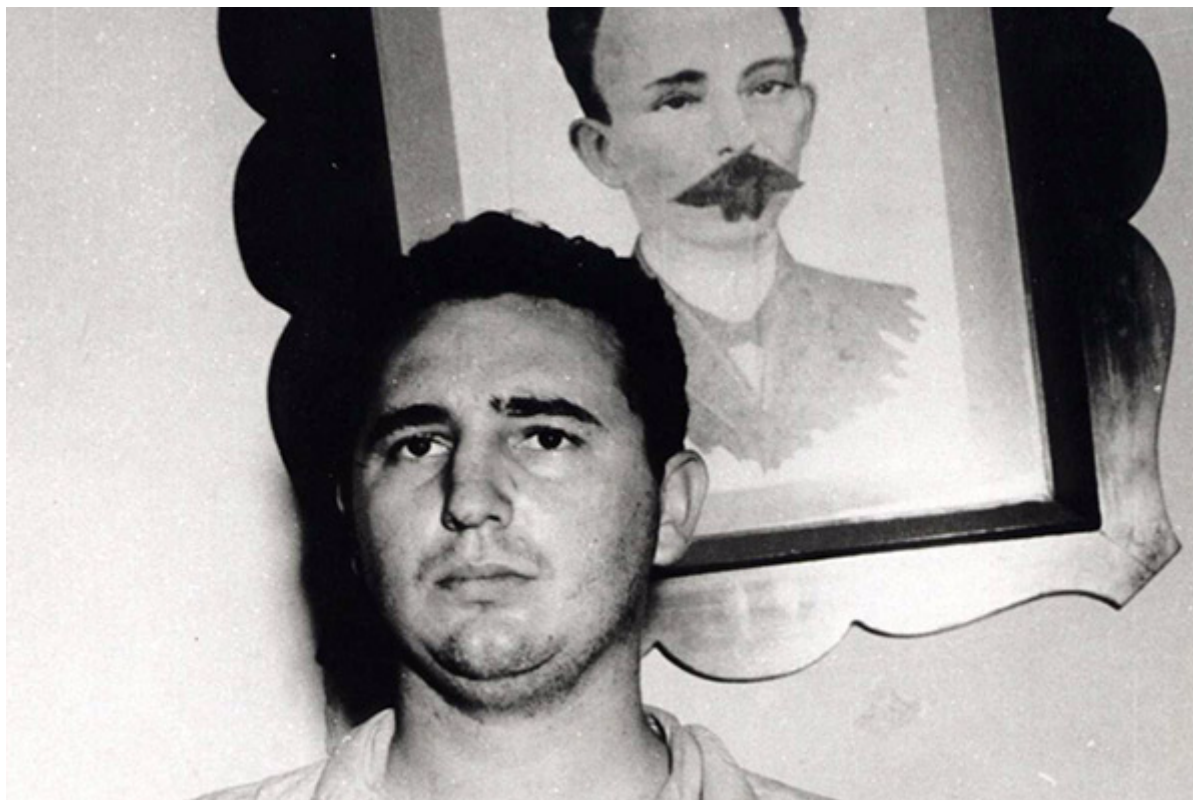


Fidel's defense speech and the social program in Cuba



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Havana, October 16 (RHC) The defense speech of the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, delivered on a day like today in 1953, constituted the social program promoted by the triumphant government six years later.

Those words became the document *La historia me absolverá*, reconstructed by the statesman and lawyer during his stay in the Isla de Pinos prison and entrusted to Melba Hernández and Haydee Santamaría for its conformation.

According to journalist and novelist Martha Rojas, a witness of the events of July 26 of that year and of the aforementioned trial, Fidel's words, printed and later distributed clandestinely, denounced the crimes committed after the assaults on military fortresses.

The actions of taking the Moncada Barracks, in Santiago de Cuba, and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, in Bayamo, would determine the beginning of the armed struggle against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista (1952-1958), but several reasons determined the failure to achieve that objective.

After the events, Batista ordered the elimination of 10 assailants for each soldier of the regime killed in combat and, consequently, most of them were killed and the survivors were persecuted, prosecuted and sentenced to prison.

The revolutionary leader's plea also condemned the crisis of the existing political institutions and social problems, aggravated after the coup d'état of March 10, 1952, added to the strict control, threats and police repression of the time.

In addition, he established among the future guidelines education, education reform, health, solidarity with other peoples, the significance of tourism for the economic progress of the island, the creation of cooperatives and the participation of workers in certain industries.

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