

# NETA NEWS

Warwick p. 4

DECEMBER 1977—JANUARY 1978. The NETA News is the newsletter of the New England Translators Assoc'n.\*

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## JANUARY 1978 MEETING

The NETA January 1978 Meeting will be held Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Igo's Restaurant, 1812 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (between Porter & Harvard Square). It will be a "Dutch" treat dinner and social evening. We will discuss the Russian passage included here (previously published as the November passage). Bring along any translation problems you might have and we'll have our "Problem corner" as well.

## NETA UPDATE

Our December meeting with the Goethe Society, although sparsely attended due to inclement weather, was quite a success. Four of us—Bill Grimes, John Nerl, Keith Morehouse, and Alice Berglund—formed a "Translation" panel with Bodo Reichenbach as moderator. We discussed our "in-house" and "out-house" translation jobs, how we as individuals happened to become translators, translator societies and standards, and the role of the literary translator with emphasis on publication in the small press. As a prelude to the panel discussion, we discussed a German passage on transportation (that included typical translation pitfalls) amongst ourselves and with the Goethe Society members. (Much light was shed on the subject of trash collection in the Federal Republic! ) We plan to have a similar meeting in the Spring, since many people who had planned to attend that night stayed away due to the snow and cold.

Our November meeting at Igo's (also a dinner meeting) was a cozy social evening. We discussed a German passage and generally enjoyed the company of our fellow translators.

## APRIL PROJECT

The NETA is planning a weekend workshop in April. We will organize a 3-prong Saturday "nuts and bolts" workshop—topics will be separated according to whether they are of interest to the technical or to the literary translator or to the foreign-language educator. Simultaneous sessions (a mini-convention) which involve roundtable discussions, and talks by professional translators, educators, and industrial specialists will be the order of the day. All participants will then join in a Saturday dinner. Sunday will be reserved for

socializing and taking Accreditation tests. We will invite out-of-town ATA members and open the workshop to all who are interested. Workers and ideas are urgently needed for this project. Call Bill Grimes at 749-1540.

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Our current officers were elected for the 1977-78 term. They are: Bill Grimes, President; Alice Berglund, Vice President; and Rudy Heller, Secretary-Treasurer.

## MISTRANSLATION—MISINTERPRETATION

Mistranslation—or more appropriately, misinterpretation—has been a topic of universal interest of late. During the Begin-Sadat talks, the new media many times mentioned the poor quality of interpretation, particularly from Arabic into English. International political communications and peace talks are truly a delicate area for the interpreter. So much is at stake—every diplomatic nuance must be handled very carefully.

But, the Begin-Sadat interpretation problems were minor compared with the "faux pas" of Jimmy Carter's translator-interpreter in Poland recently. (I use the compound noun deliberately, because the situation was such that both functions were performed.)

The Boston Globe ran an excellent article by Thomas Oliphant on this story, entitled "An interpreter's nightmare—botching the big one". I shall summarize the article and subsequently offer my own opinions.

A State Department interpreter privately commiserated with his now-infamous colleague, Stephen Seymour, by the following statement: "You're listening in one language, thinking in two, and speaking in one, all at the same time. It is a very delicate process, like a computer; one wire goes and you can be up the creek before you realize it."

However, Warsaw reports indicate that Mr. Seymour had time to prepare a written translation before delivery and appeared to be reading from notes.

It was the magnitude of Mr. Seymour's misinterpretation that should be questioned. He: (1) Translated Carter's comment "I want to understand your desires for the future" into Polish as "better understand your lusts" or more literally, "I desire the Poles carnally"; (2) Translated "When I left the US this morning" as "When I abandoned the US, never to return"; (3) Converted Mr. Carter's compliment on the Polish constitution into a statement that ridiculed it; and (4) Lapsed into Russian syntax and vocabulary, which is particularly odious, given Polish sensitivity on Soviet domination. Mr. Seymour's oral stumbling also added to

\*The NETA is a regional chapter of the ATA, The American Translators Association, a national professional society.

the debacle.

Officially, the State Department was rigorous. A formal apology was made to the Polish government for Mr. Seymour's "lewd" remarks. The interpreter was replaced by a Polish national, an employee of the US Embassy, and assistance was provided by Mr. Carter's national security advisor who is of Polish extraction.

The article goes on to note that "No Polish language interpreters are full-time employees, because there isn't enough demand for such a service." The interpreter was engaged as a "free-lance contractor" from a pool of translators who are given a battery of oral and written tests; the translators and interpreters are on file at the State Department's Bureau of Language Services. No personal information could be released on Mr. Seymour's background, although it was disclosed that his prior assignments included trade talks between the Poles and Elliot Richardson. Mr. Seymour was on assignment this time for a rate of \$150/day.

Mr. Oliphant concludes his article with two translation anecdotes when "things go right and when they don't": An Army general interpreter managed to save President Nixon embarrassment in Spain in 1970 when he came up with an excellent interpretation after Mr. Nixon hemmed and hawed and rushed through a few ad lib statements. However, Mr. Nixon's falling out with the Japanese government in the summer of 1971 was partly caused by a mis-interpretation. The Japanese phrase "zensho shimasu" means "I hear what you are saying". However, it was interpreted as a promise: "I'll work on it". But Mr. Sato never did "work on it" and Mr. Nixon was rather disconcerted.

The Globe article is surprisingly kind, given the blunder that was made. One wonders (that is, if one does not happen to be a translator and have first-hand experience with the US government translation programs) why Mr. Carter would employ a "free lancer" at a rather mediocre rate of pay for such a highly sensitive mission? Obviously, the government's false economizing with regard to its translators caused a major international episode. It is my personal opinion that there is more than enough work to keep a good political specialist busy as an interpreter-translator in the Polish language on a full-time basis. (And I am sure there are a few such in government employ presently. Why wasn't an NSA full-time employee selected, for instance?) Why did the government resort to the free lancer? And again, since a free lancer was selected, why was he not put through a rigorous orientation program before stepping into the limelight?

Since I am a free lancer myself and have occasionally been hired for in-house work (strictly as a translator into English), I consider the daily rate given about average. It should be remembered that the free-lancer does not usually work a 5-day week of this sort and a good deal of preparation goes into a day's work. And my work is not hypersensitive! In addition, my employers are well aware of my limitations with regard to their business. I'm not expected to know their special lingo or the full extent of their business. For the most part I prepare draft translations that aid their own people in communicating with their foreign colleagues. If, on the other hand, I were employed full-time in a certain business as a translator (as many translators are), I would be expected to be familiar with the business's special language and problems. Certainly this should be no less true for the State Department's interpreters and translators. I am truly surprised that their screening tests are so poor, that the incompetence displayed by the unfortunate Mr. Seymour slipped by unnoticed. Any good translation agent's screening tests will weed out such incompetence. However, I believe the whole problem developed as a result of employing someone's brother-in-law or nephew (who may have majored in Polish at the university). Because I was curious, I checked to see if Mr. Seymour was a member of either the ATA or the Guild of Professional Translators; he belongs to neither organization.

—A. Berglund

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A few more bloopers, collected anonymously:

"Watertight gasket" rendered as "watertight casket";  
 "Humerous fracture = fracture of the humerous" Funny fracture?

\* \* \*

#### MORE FROM DR. YEE

The April-May issue of the NETA News featured an article on Dr. Frank Yee's English Colloquialisms. In the current issue we will note some of Dr. Yee's suggestions for dealing with the opposite sex. A nice looking young lady is a "broad", "chicken sandwich", "cheesecake", or "oomph". As for males, "He is the sheik of Chinatown" and "I don't think he is such a sex appeal" seem to cover the field.

Finally, if the reader should become involved with the police, he may choose to be laudatory or defiant: "What a snappy uniform you got! It is just immaculate!" or "What the hell! They got nothing on me."

#### VERBS AND MUSIC

The pleasant little Bavarian town of Dinkelsbühl was the site of a "promising but perhaps immature concept in the simultaneous teaching of music and the German language,

the Festshortschrift. Martha Saxton reviewed this educational experiment in The New Yorker Magazine, describing it as "an attempt to prepare tourists heading for the great summer music festivals with massive double rations of German culture, thus permitting them to gain joint comprehension of adverbs and arias, subjunctives and solfeggio, all in the space of a single afternoon."

Representative selections included: Ich and Du, Deutsch ist eine Sprache, Deutsch ist ein Lied (German is a Language, German is a Song), and Sein, Sein, Sein! (To be, to be, to be! )

The concert also included an audience-participation segment intended to prepare the students for "every-day restaurant conversation," Ohne Zucker, Bitte! (No sugar, please), but "audience comprehension proved to be so low" that this had to be abandoned.

Ms. Saxton's tongue-in-cheek piece pokes fun at the three-hour innovation with cleverly worded puns, describing the final section as a "follow-the-Lieder technique" in which the performers posed questions to the audience, a tactic which led to "harmonic and syntactical pandemonium".  
—M. Warnick

#### TRANSLATION OF CHEMICAL ARTICLES— THE DIRECT APPROACH

Not too long ago, I was looking for a good monograph on stereochemistry and came across a reference to Natta & Farina's work (Dr. Farina received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1963) Stereochimica: Molecole in 3D (1968) published in Italian. Not being able to locate the original, I purchased a translation of this work and began reading. Although my knowledge of the field is minimal, I could not help but admire the translator's fluency—it certainly appeared to be an English-language original. Happily, the translator's name appeared on the title page and there is also a short biography of the translator on the inside cover. Since the translation was made in Great Britain, at first I attributed this largesse to the sophistication of the English translating industry, but I very soon abandoned this thought. The translator is Andrew Dempster, Ph.D., a lecturer in Molecular Spectroscopy, i.e., a chemist.

Dr. Dempster, of course, is not the only chemist who is occupied with translation. Many researchers would prefer to "translate" material in their specialty, with minimal help from a professional (or otherwise) translator. I note an inherent distrust in the technical person's delegation of translation tasks to the professional translator. In one instance, I was asked about my own background in chemistry, rather than language, and was hired on that basis.

The controversy of technical knowledge vs. language knowledge that rages in translator circles may never be fully resolved—certainly proper translation involves an

in-depth knowledge of both subject and language. However, there are many who assert that knowledge of the foreign language is of minimal importance.

Dr. E. Emmet Reid, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University, who has published a 6-volume reference work in organic chemistry, is a proponent of this latter view. His varied career included translation work and chemistry/language consulting. As a result of his language experience, he published the volume: Chemistry through the Language Barrier (The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1970; available at Barnes & Noble, Boston, for \$1.95! ) It is rather interesting that the subtitle reads "With Emphasis on Russian and Japanese". Dr. Reid starts with the premise that a chemist reads for information and that he wants to know of all research only in his field. Usually such articles cover the same material, but each presents something new and is to be understood in its relation to the other articles. Such research may be presented in the form of many different foreign languages, but the chemist should pass the "language barrier" by using the "direct approach" and deduce the information he wants. Dr. Reid feels that so-called reading examinations in graduate schools emphasize that it is better to know one foreign language well than to know a smattering of several foreign languages; he disagrees and takes the opposite view. There was a time when the only language of import to an English-speaking organic chemist was German, but this is no longer the case. And the substitution of a knowledge of Fortran for the study of a foreign language, a present trend in graduate schools, is absurd, given that no important chemical material is ever written in Fortran!

Dr. Reid gives the following breakdown for the 6 languages used in over 90% of current chemical publications:

	1965	1969	
English	52.0	55.9	per cent
Russian	20.0	22.6	
German	9.8	7.5	
Japanese	4.0	3.3	
French	5.1	4.6	
Italian	1.9	1.5	

Dr. Reid's direct approach to Russian is as follows: gain familiarity with the Russian alphabet, and then "acquire a limited, specialized Russian vocabulary relating to a narrowed field of interest. . . We approach Russian in three stages: the efficacy of the direct approach is demonstrated first on a Polish article (written in the Latin alphabet); attention is called to the similarity of Polish and the transliterated Russian text; finally, encouragement and help is offered in learning the Russian alphabet and working with it. As the chemist

encounters many Russian chemical articles, it is desirable for him to develop facility in the language as fast as possible." And that's it! Dr. Reid also has a direct approach to Japanese.

The book then deals with the international chemical language, pointing out the international symbols and measurements employed, international vocabulary, etc. Although there are limitations—e.g. common words for "water" and "heat" are usually rather diverse terms, chemical formulae are given in many cases to aid in translation, e.g., the German "Schwefelsäure (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>)". The author takes a sample text and compares international words in 8 languages. He then shows the reader the application of the direct approach.

The first step is to look at a foreign article and find the clues that indicate whether the article really concerns the researcher's particular problem. The chemist then checks the names and relative amounts of the starting materials. Next, he places the new article next to another on the same subject and they are compared, line by line. If two chemists start with the same materials and end up with the same products, it is assumed that they both used the same technique, but this assumption must be checked by looking up unfamiliar words in the dictionary.

"Three chemists scanning the same article may be looking for three entirely different types of information: one might need a date or a melting point, the other identification of the process, and the third sufficient information to enable him to repeat the experiment. The first objective would require little effort; the third, a great deal. Whether he wants little or much, the chemist should avoid hasty conclusions and make absolutely sure of the accuracy of what he does record. As a minimum, the chemist should be able to find out enough about an article to decide whether it is desirable to order a translation."

Dr. Reid encourages the chemist who is a beginner at translation not to look up each word in the dictionary, translate it, and think of what it stands for but rather to think in terms of standard lab procedures and associate the printed word directly with the object itself, a technique that becomes easier with practice.

Dr. Reid devotes 4 chapters to sample texts and their analysis; he chooses texts in Polish, Italian, Rumanian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, the Scandinavian languages, German, Dutch, Hungarian, Finnish, Czech, Russian and Japanese. The balance of his work contains a glossary of terms of chemical importance in the languages he has

discussed.

In addition to its interest to the chemist, I believe the book is a valuable tool to the professional translator, who must occasionally deal with languages he does not know (e.g., in reference sections of articles, figures, tables, etc.) and also to the translation agent, who often needs to spot-check for omissions or mistranslations in his translators' work.

At one time I was asked to give a "reading course" in Russian to a group of metallurgists who wanted to learn Russian for just this purpose of scanning articles in their field and I worked out a program similar to that discussed by Dr. Reid (except I used transliterated Russian passages instead of Polish for an introduction to Russian! )

To conclude, I cite the following from the Journal of Chemical Education:

"I would have you to observe that the difficulty & mystery which often appear in matters of science & learning are only owing to the terms of art used in them, & if many gentlemen had not been rebuted by the uncouth dress in which science was offered to them, we must believe that many of these who now shew an acute & sound judgement in the affairs of life would also in science have excelled many of those who are devoted to it & who were engaged in it only by necessity & a phlegmatic temper. This is particularly the case with respect to chemistry, which is as easy to be comprehended as any of the common affairs of life, but gentlemen have been kept from applying to it by the jargon in which it has been industriously involved. We propose to amend that & avoid terms of art as much as possible, but many of them are unavoidable & shall be explained, & I must beg your attention to our first lectures, for without your understanding our terms, all afterwards must be darkness & confusion. "

—William Cullen, 1748

\* \* \*  
—A. Berglund

#### A TESTIMONIAL TO NETA

"The first meeting of the NETA was held in September, 1975. I attended, harboring a variety of emotions. Among them were curiosity, hope, apprehension. There was curiosity about the people involved and about the mechanics of the profession; hope that the group would offer information on getting started in the translation field; apprehension that this would be another dead end.

"Aspiring to become a translator, I had joined ATA as an associate member, followed all applicable suggestions in the ATA Chronicle, read every available book on translation, and contacted agencies—all to no avail. Perusal of university and college catalogues and inquiries about translation courses at local institutions of higher learning produced no results. In greater Boston, a world-renowned center of higher education, there was evidently no way one could learn how to become a translator!

"In my own case, membership in NETA has changed the situation dramatically. There were no miracles, no quick job offers, no instant education. But there was, and still is, a

group of friendly, helpful, professional people, who are willing to share their expertise for the good of the profession. Monthly meetings have included panel discussions on dictionaries, libraries, technical and scientific topics, literary translation, etc.; films; translation roundtables; and informal conversations with working translators—all of which have provided invaluable practical assistance.

There is a lot of hard work involved, just as there is in any worthwhile endeavor; but learning where to look, how to prepare and submit sample translations, what to read and study, etc., have led to free-lance assignments for me.

"I still consider myself an apprentice translator with much to learn about the profession, but NETA and the people in it have helped to satisfy the curiosity, dispel the apprehension and fulfill my desire for a career in translation."

—M. Warnick

### THE BALALAIKA—RULES IN ENGLISH DIRECT FROM MOSCOW

"Please mind the following rules and you will enjoy your Russian balalaika for a long time.

- (1) Keep the balalaika in a room at the ambient temperature of +12 to +28°C and relative humidity of 50 to 60%.
- (2) The place where you keep the balalaika should be at least 1.5 m distant from central heating radiators and/or other heat sources.
- (3) Protect the balalaika from direct sunbeams and draughts.
- (4) In winter, when the balalaika gets from the cold into a warm room, wipe it with a dry soft cloth prior to playing it, otherwise the balalaika may become moist.
- (5) If the balalaika is supposed not to be used for a month, it is advisable to loosen its strings for the sake of better safety.

—Anon

### NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION WITH A NEW TWIST

According to the Boston Globe, Professor Laurence Wylie, Harvard's C. Douglas Dillon professor of French Civilization, is teaching French with a "Charlie Chaplain tinge". Professor Wylie spent his 1973 sabbatical year as a student of Jacques Lecoq in the Paris School of French Mime in order to "achieve a deeper approach to expression and communication."

With the help of Harvard students, Professor Wylie has published "Beaux Gestes", a sort of guide to French body talk. Gestures cover "fear, insult, threat, anger, sex, boredom, praise, and mockery." They are a necessary part of communication and of understanding the French (which is

difficult for many Americans).

Body movements can be humorous or descriptive and Professor Wylie's course is aimed at explaining traditional gestures and clearing up misunderstandings. He also notes that other cultures, e.g., Anglo-American, convey cultural attitudes through cultural gestures and expressions.

—M. Warnick

### FROM META: LITERARY TRANSLATION IN CANADA by Philip Stratford

If American literary translators find it difficult to earn a living at their trade (and if it is any compensation), they may look at the plight of their Canadian colleagues and realize that they may not have it so bad after all. A country with a 200-year history of 2 cultures lags behind most Western nations in the field of literary translation. It has adopted a colonial posture and left this work to translating circles in New York, London, and Paris. According to UNESCO Statistical Yearbooks, from 1963-72, Canada averaged 117 translations per year; Iceland had 149 and Albania 97. Books of all kinds are included; 25% of this figure is religious books, while literature involves 20%. For comparison with Europe: Belgium publishes 8 times as many translations as Canada; Switzerland 7 times; Hungary 8 times; and the Netherlands 16 times as many. (Ed. note: Yes, the Dutch literary translators were well represented in the 1977 FIT conference!)

In general, French-English translation is better developed than English-French. Most of the latter works involve works related to Quebec.

Availability of translated works is also a problem. Publishers print short-run, expensive editions, because they still consider translations a luxury item, a diplomatic or political gesture, with marginal profit. One English publisher, however, (Harvard House of Montreal) has made an effort to promote translations as such. Twenty titles are now available in the "French Writers of Canada" series.

Recently, however, the picture has been changing. There is now a Canada Council translation program which gives grants to Canadian publishers for translation costs. These grants are given specifically for the translation of Canadian books, and in a few cases, of books by Canadian writers published abroad. Translators must be Canadian citizens. Some 250 titles (200 since 1971) have been thus subsidized. The program has permitted publishers to add translated titles to their lists at relatively low cost and has encouraged many writers to try translation. Of the 55 Canadians who have translated at least 2 books, 40 of them received grants from the Council's program.

# RUSSIAN ROUNDTABLE

## СВЕТОВАЯ ПАМЯТЬ

Сравнивая человеческую память с машиной, поражаешься совершенству природы. Есть, например, люди, которые с фотографической точностью воспроизводят любую страницу любой книги, прочитанной хоть двадцать лет назад. Если объем знаний, которые они хранят, записать методами машинной памяти, то для его хранения придется построить многоэтажный дом.

В поисках емких запоминающих устройств в вычислительной технике ученые обратились к голографии. Лазерным лучом единицу информации можно записать на площади, диаметр которой равен длине волны. А длина волны в световом диапазоне — это десятые доли микрона (микрон — тысячная доля миллиметра). Значит, в одной типографской точке может поместиться целая страница печатного текста. Однако при необходимости, чтобы заменить часть устаревших сведений, нужно выбрасывать всю голограмму и записывать новую. Это слишком сложно и дорого.

Советские ученые разработали способ, с помощью которого можно записать голограмму, а потом легко стереть любое место записи, если, к примеру, здесь обнаружена ошибка, и на том же самом месте вновь записать уже исправленные данные.

Сделать это позволяют необычные свойства кристаллов ниобата лития. Если лазерный луч направить на такой кристалл, показатель преломле-

ния в месте касания изменится — сведения записано. Теперь, проходя через пластинку из ниобата лития, лучи определенным образом изменят свое направление — так считывается информация.

Ну, а как стереть оптическую запись? Роль ластика выполняет лазер, излучающий свет с более короткой длиной волны. Он восстанавливает показатель преломления до прежнего уровня. Если информация записывается красным лучом, то стирается она — синим. На чистом месте снова можно писать красным лучом. В лаборатории эта процедура повторялась на каждом кристалле до пяти раз, причем никакого ухудшения качества записи не было замечено.

## УСОВЕРШЕНСТВОВАННЫЙ «ПРАДЕДУШКА»

Сейчас есть самые разные лазеры: газовые, жидкостные, полупроводниковые. Но первыми были оптические квантовые генераторы, у которых рабочая среда — твердое тело. Так, «прадедушками» всех нынешних квантовых генераторов считаются рубиновые лазеры. Естественно, что это наиболее широко применяющиеся установки. Они способны работать как в непрерывном режиме, так и пикосекундными импульсами (пикосекунда — тысячная часть миллиардной доли секунды). Мощность, которую может развить такой лазер, сравнима с мощностью всех электростанций мира, вместе взятых.

К сожалению, у твердотельного ла-

зера имеется существенный недостаток. Лампа-вспышка, которая «накачивает» его, то есть питает энергией, дает очень широкий спектр света, а кристалл (рубин) поглощает из него лишь узенькую полоску. Вот почему коэффициент полезного действия здесь не превышает одного-двух процентов. Чтобы увеличить его, ученые решили использовать для накачки рубинового лазера специальные пленки, разработанные в Ленинграде при создании полупроводниковых лазеров. Кристалл оклеивается пленкой толщиной около ста микрон.

Новый полупроводниковый оптический преобразователь — ПОП-лазер — поглощает весь спектр лампы-вспышки, а излучает его уже в узком диапазоне — как раз в том, который нужен. Словом, это своеобразный трансформатор света. Конечно, потери и здесь неизбежны, но даже с их учетом коэффициент полезного действия лазера увеличивается в пять-шесть раз. Причем пленка совсем не усложняет конструкции лазера.

Высокий коэффициент полезного действия ПОП-лазеров значительно расширит сферу их промышленного применения. Если раньше квантовые генераторы работали главным образом там, где не было другого инструмента, то теперь они смогут конкурировать с целым рядом давно отработанных технологических приемов.

## FEBRUARY ROUNDTABLE

### BETANCOURT Y CASTRO

#### *Antecedentes*

El 7 de diciembre de 1958, Rómulo Betancourt triunfaba con una votación que significaba la mitad de los sufragios emitidos por los venezolanos, en una jornada de moralidad cívica tras la década de desmanes dictatoriales. Su más inmediato contendor, el Contralmirante Wolfgang Larrazábal, candidato de la izquierda unida y de liberales antiacciondemocratas, obtuvo novecientos tres mil votos. El 1º de enero de 1959 se supo en Caracas la fuga de Batista y el triunfo del vasto movimiento de oposición que lo derrocó, dentro del cual ocupaba puesto destacado la guerrilla de Sierra Maestra, jefaturada por Fidel Castro, cuya causa gozaba de gran simpatía en el país, de modo que el gobierno provisional de Larrazábal y las fuerzas democráticas habían ayudado a ese triunfo con dinero y hasta con envíos de armas, según algunas versiones.

Betancourt celebró la caída de Batista, al igual que todos los venezolanos de sentir democrático y envió un cálido mensaje de felicitaciones a Fidel Castro, quien se perfilaba como el dueño de la situación caracterizada por un vacío de poder. En efecto, huidos Batista y sus acólitos, reducida la guardia pretoriana militar a una banda de oficiales sin moral de cuerpo ni disciplina, tan sólo interesada en su beneficio personal, amorfos los partidos salvo los comunistas, ausentes las instituciones republicanas liquidadas por la misma dictadura, se creó la primera condición objetiva para el triunfo de una revolución y su acceso al gobierno: la carencia de todo factor de poder. La guerrilla de Castro se había fortalecido en la lucha contra Batista. Llevaba siempre la iniciativa. El movimiento de resistencia urbano dominaba prácticamente todas las ciudades principales y había actuado como factor decisivo en el derrocamiento del dictador. Castro avanzaba como un triunfador, pero aún no sabía si llegaría directamente al Palacio Presidencial. Su Movimiento 26 de Julio era más una emoción que una organización. Castro entró al Palacio persignándose, asegurando que Cuba sería una democracia y dejándolo ver que no era marxista.



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