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# Chronology

## 1952

**March 10** – Coup d'état brings retired general Fulgencio Batista to power in Cuba. With Washington's support he consolidates brutal military dictatorship. Fidel Castro begins organizing a revolutionary movement to overthrow the Batista tyranny by armed insurrection.

**April 9** – Revolutionary upsurge in Bolivia topples country's military government and leads to installation of new regime headed by bourgeois Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR), led by Víctor Paz Estenssoro. The Bolivian trade union movement, led by the tin miners, plays a central role in the uprising. The popular upsurge results in nationalization of the largest tin mines, legalization of the trade unions, initiation of land reform, and enfranchisement of Bolivia's indigenous majority.

## 1953

**July 26** – Some 160 fighters led by Fidel Castro launch insurrectionary attack on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba and the garrison in nearby Bayamo, Cuba. The combatants fail to take the garrisons, and over 50 captured revolutionaries are murdered. Castro and 27 other fighters are subsequently captured, tried, and sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

**1954**

**May** – Capping an eight-year war for national liberation, Vietnamese fighters rout French imperialist forces at Dien Bien Phu, ending French colonial rule of Indochina. Following accords reached in Geneva, Vietnam is divided in two and Washington replaces Paris as major imperialist power in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, setting stage for continuing national liberation struggle.

**June-September** – Seeking to crush political and social struggles in Guatemala accompanying limited land reform initiated by regime of Jacobo Arbenz, mercenary forces backed by CIA invade the country to oust Arbenz government. Among those volunteering to fight the imperialist-organized attack is Ernesto Guevara, who had been drawn to Guatemala by the upsurge in struggle. Arbenz refuses to arm the people and resigns June 27; mercenary forces enter Guatemala City in August. In September Guevara, forced to flee Guatemala, arrives in Mexico City.

**1955**

**May-July** – Fidel Castro and other Moncada prisoners are released in May in response to a growing campaign for amnesty. In June they and their political supporters reorganize themselves as July 26 Movement. In July Castro arrives in Mexico to begin preparations for an expedition to resume armed insurrectionary struggle inside Cuba. Shortly after Castro's arrival he meets Ernesto Guevara, who joins the combatants' nucleus as troop doctor.

**1956**

**December 2** – Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara are among 82 members of the July 26 Movement who arrive in Cuba aboard the yacht *Granma* to initiate the revolutionary war against Batista dictatorship. Rebel Army is born.

**1957**

**July 21** – Guevara is first combatant promoted by Castro to commander and named head of a second Rebel Army column, Column no. 4.

**November-December 1957** – Harry Villegas, later known as Pombo, after volunteering for Rebel Army is accepted by Guevara as member of Column no. 4. Rebel Army continues to consolidate positions, grow in strength and size, and carry out effective guerrilla attacks on Batista army outposts and mobile columns.

**1958**

**January** – Popular uprising and general strike in Caracas, Venezuela, overthrows dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez. New government led by nationalist army officers gives aid to Cuba's Rebel Army.

**February** – Rebel victory at second battle of Pino del Agua in Sierra Maestra marks decisive shift in military relation of forces, opening several months of expanded operations by Rebel Army, with new fronts and columns.

**May-July** – Batista launches "encircle and annihilate" offensive, sending 10,000 troops into the Sierra Maestra. Rebel Army, then with 300 fighters and usable rifles, concentrates forces around command post of Fidel Castro's Column no. 1, draws in government troops, and defeats them in course of several decisive battles.

**August-December** – Rebel Army launches counterattack. Columns commanded by Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos lead westward invasion from Sierra Maestra mountains to Las Villas province in central Cuba. Rebel Army fronts in eastern Cuba led by Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, and Juan Almeida establish a vast liberated territory. By late December major cities and towns in central and eastern Cuba are cut off and surrounded by Rebel Army, sealing the fate of Batista dictatorship.

**1959**

**January 1** – Fulgencio Batista flees Cuba, ceding power to a military junta. Speaking over Radio Rebelde, Fidel Castro opposes new junta, calls for nationwide general strike, and orders columns led by Guevara and Cienfuegos to march on Havana.

**January 2** – Cuban workers respond to call for revolutionary general strike with massive uprising. Rebel columns led by Cienfuegos and Guevara enter Havana and occupy principal army garrisons. Military junta collapses. Led by July 26 Movement and Rebel Army, Cuba's workers and peasants deepen revolutionary struggle, taking first steps toward creating a government in their interests.

**March** – Street demonstrations by students throughout Bolivia denounce U.S. domination of the country. The protests coincide with a strike by 24,000 tin miners. Workers and youth confront the increasingly corrupt and fractured MNR government.

**May 17** – The Cuban revolution initiates a deep-going agrarian reform, confiscating the large landed estates of foreign and Cuban owners, and distributing land titles to hundreds of thousands of peasants.

**October 7** – Guevara is named head of Department of Industrialization of National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA). Along with other responsibilities he also heads Rebel Army's Department of Education.

**November 26** – Guevara is appointed president of Cuba's National Bank, with responsibility for the country's finances.

**1960**

**August 6** – In response to escalating U.S. economic aggression and sabotage actions, the revolutionary government decrees the nationalization of major U.S. companies in Cuba. By October virtually all Cuban-owned industry is also nationalized.

**October 19** – The U.S. government decrees a partial embargo against trade with Cuba.

**1961**

**January 17** – Patrice Lumumba, central leader of the independence movement in the former Belgian colony of the Congo, is murdered by imperialist-backed forces loyal to rightist figure Moïse Tshombe. Standing aside while Lumumba was deposed and arrested were United Nations troops he had invited in to halt mercenary attacks backed by Belgium.

**February 23** – Guevara becomes Cuban minister of industry.

**April 16** – At a mass rally to honor victims of U.S.-organized air attacks the previous day, Fidel Castro proclaims the socialist character of the Cuban revolution and calls the people of Cuba to arms in its defense. Guevara is sent to Pinar del Río province to command troops.

**April 17** – 1,500 Cuban mercenaries invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast. The invasion, organized and financed by Washington, aims to declare a provisional government to appeal for direct U.S. intervention. The invaders are defeated within 72 hours by Cuba's militia and its Revolutionary Armed Forces. On April 19 the last invaders surrender at Playa Girón (Girón Beach).

**August** – The Alliance for Progress is proclaimed at a meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS). The U.S.-sponsored program, established as a response to the Cuban revolution and its example, aims to prop up compliant capitalist regimes and enrich U.S. bankers and investors. It allocates \$20 billion in loans to Latin American governments over a ten-year period in exchange for their cooperation in opposing Cuba's revolutionary regime.

**1962**

**January 31** – The OAS votes to expel Cuba.

**February 3** – President Kennedy orders a total embargo on U.S. trade with Cuba.

**February 4** – Mass rally of one million in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution proclaims the Second Declaration of Havana,

underlining support for revolutionary struggle throughout the Americas.

**February** – A revolutionary movement is formed in Guatemala, led by Marco Antonio Yon Sosa and Luis Augusto Turcios Lima, and begins guerrilla actions.

**July 3** – Following an eight-year armed struggle, France recognizes Algeria's independence.

**October 22–28** – Washington orders a naval blockade of Cuba and places U.S. armed forces on nuclear alert to demand removal from the island of a Soviet-supplied nuclear missile defense. The missiles had been installed following a mutual defense agreement between Cuba and the Soviet Union in face of Washington's renewed preparations to launch an invasion of Cuba. In response to U.S. aggression, Cuban workers and farmers mobilize in the millions to defend the revolution. Following an exchange of communications between Washington and Moscow, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, without consulting the Cuban government, announces his decision to remove the missiles.

### 1963

**February 20** – Members of Venezuelan Communist Party, dissident military officers, and others form the Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN) to wage a guerrilla struggle.

**April-May** – U.S. civil rights fighters in Birmingham, Alabama, conduct mass marches and sit-ins to desegregate public facilities.

**May** – An attempt to establish a guerrilla movement in Peru is crushed in Puerto Maldonado, and its leader Javier Heraud is killed.

**May 29** – Peruvian peasant leader Hugo Blanco is captured and jailed following several years of mass struggle by peasants for land in the valley of La Convención.

**August 26** – A quarter of a million march on Washington, D.C., in support of civil rights struggle.

**September** – A guerrilla nucleus is established in the Salta mountains of northern Argentina, led by Jorge Ricardo Masetti. Logistics and support are coordinated from Bolivia by Cuban internationalist José María Martínez Tamayo, aided by several members of the Bolivian Communist Party.

**November 1** – South Vietnamese dictator Ngo Dinh Diem is assassinated at the instigation of Washington, which is dissatisfied with his regime's inability to counter the military and political successes of the National Liberation Front.

#### 1964

**January 9** – U.S. forces open fire on Panamanian students demonstrating in the U.S.-occupied Canal Zone, sparking several days of street fighting. More than 20 Panamanians are killed and 300 wounded.

**March 31–April 2** – A U.S.-backed military coup d'état in Brazil overthrows the liberal bourgeois government of João Goulart and inaugurates bloody reign of terror.

**March–April** – The guerrillas in the Salta mountains of Argentina are crushed; Masetti is killed.

**April** – The Communist Party of Bolivia holds its second congress. A pro-Maoist minority led by Oscar Zamora is excluded from the Central Committee, leading to a split in the party.

**August** – Following a naval incident manufactured by Washington in the waters off Indochina, the U.S. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, authorizing the bombing of North Vietnam and rapid escalation of the war.

**November 4** – Amidst a wave of protests and strikes by workers and students against the corrupt and unpopular government of Víctor Paz Estenssoro, a military coup is carried out by René Barrientos, Bolivia's vice president and head of the air force, and army commander Alfredo Ovando. Barrientos becomes president.

**November** – Following an uprising by supporters of murdered prime minister Patrice Lumumba, U.S. planes bomb rebel-held

villages in the Congo and ferry Belgian troops and mercenaries to crush the revolt. Thousands of Congolese are massacred.

**November 18** – Haydée Tamara Bunke (*Tania*) arrives in Bolivia from Cuba to begin intelligence work in preparation for initiating a guerrilla front to coincide with deepening popular struggles throughout South America's Southern Cone.

**December 11** – Che Guevara addresses United Nations General Assembly, where he denounces the escalating U.S. war against Vietnam, and the imperialist-backed assault in the Congo.

### 1965

**January 7** – The National Liberation Army (ELN) of Colombia carries out its first armed action.

**January-March** – Civil rights fighters in U.S. wage campaign for voting rights for Blacks, centered in Alabama.

**February 21** – U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City.

**March 8–9** – Washington's first combat units arrive in Vietnam, joining the 23,000 U.S. troops already there. By 1968 there will be 540,000 U.S. troops engaged in Vietnam War.

**March 13** – Fidel Castro appeals for unity among the world's progressive forces in support of Vietnam

**March 14** – Guevara returns to Cuba following three-month world trip that included visits to numerous countries in Africa. Immediately afterward Guevara drops from public view.

**April 1** – Guevara, in disguise, leaves Cuba en route to Africa. Before leaving he writes a letter to Fidel Castro giving up his leadership posts and Cuban citizenship and announcing his decision to participate in revolutionary struggles abroad.

**April 17** – Twenty thousand march in Washington, D.C., in first mass demonstration protesting Vietnam War.

**April 24** – Guevara arrives in the Congo, where he heads a contingent of over 100 Cuban volunteers giving assistance to revolutionary forces fighting that country's proimperialist

regime. Congolese government troops are supported by mercenaries backed by Belgian, South African, and other imperialist forces. Among the Cuban volunteers are Pombo, Tuma, Mbili, Moro, and Braulio, who later go to fight with Che in Bolivia.

**April 28** – Some 24,000 U.S. troops invade the Dominican Republic to crush a popular uprising against the military junta there backed by Washington.

**May** – The Barrientos dictatorship provokes a confrontation with the trade union movement by arresting Juan Lechín, central leader of the Bolivian Workers Federation (COB). Workers respond with a general strike and seizure of the country's tin mines. The regime unleashes a wave of repression, arresting union leaders and sending troops to occupy the mining camps, killing many.

**June 19** – Revolutionary government of Ahmed Ben Bella in Algeria is overthrown in military coup.

**June-December** – A guerrilla front in Peru operates in the department of Junín, organized by the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). It is annihilated and its leader, Guillermo Lobatón, disappears and is presumed dead.

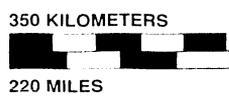
**September-October** – A guerrilla front in Peru operates in the department of Cuzco, organized by the MIR. The movement is crushed and its leader, Luis de la Puente, is killed in battle.

**September-December** – A guerrilla front in Peru operates in the department of Ayacucho, organized by the National Liberation Army (ELN). It is destroyed and its leader, Héctor Béjar, is subsequently captured.

**September 30** – Indonesian general Suharto seizes power and carries out a massacre of members and supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party. Hundreds of thousands are subsequently killed.

**October 3** – During a public meeting to introduce the Central Committee of the newly founded Communist Party of Cuba, Fidel Castro reads Guevara's letter of farewell.

**November 21** – Following a decision by African states and liberation



**Bolivia**

movements to halt military aid to the Congolese rebel movement, the Cuban volunteer contingent ends its mission in the Congo; Guevara crosses into Tanzania. Subsequently travels to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he steps up preparations for revolutionary effort in Southern Cone of Latin America.

### 1966

- January 3–14** – Tricontinental Conference of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America is held in Havana, attended by anti-imperialist fighters from around the world.
- January** – Bolivian CP members Coco Peredo, Rodolfo Saldaña, Jorge Vázquez (*Loro*), and Luis Méndez (*Ñato*) travel to Cuba to receive military training.
- February 15** – Colombian guerrilla leader Camilo Torres is killed.
- March** – Cuban internationalist José María Martínez Tamayo (*Ricardo, Mbili, Papi, Chinchu, Taco*) arrives in Bolivia to organize preparations for a revolutionary guerrilla front to be centered in Peru or Bolivia.
- June** – Venezuelan FALN leader Fabricio Ojeda is captured and murdered in custody.
- June 27** – A 3,000-acre farm in southeastern Bolivia along the Ñancahuazú river is purchased as a possible preliminary staging area for a guerrilla front. Other possible sites include the Alto Beni (Caranavi) and Chapare regions.
- July 14** – Cuban internationalists Pombo and Tuma leave Prague en route to Bolivia to help with logistical and political preparations to open a guerrilla front in Bolivia.
- July 21** – Pombo and Tuma arrive in Bolivia.
- July 27** – Pombo and Tuma reach La Paz.
- Late July** – Guevara arrives in Cuba to directly supervise organization of revolutionary front in Bolivia and training of Cuban volunteers.
- July-September** – Main body of Cuban volunteers selected by Guevara for Bolivia mission undergoes training in San Andrés,

Pinar del Río province, in western Cuba.

**August-October** – Relations between the Cuban team in Bolivia and the Bolivian CP leadership steadily deteriorate. CP general secretary Mario Monje reneges on commitments to support revolutionary front.

**September** – Exploration of alternate sites in Bolivia being considered for initial guerrilla zone of operations.

**September 26** – Guevara sends message giving approval of Ñancahuazú for initial guerrilla training operations.

**October 23** – Guevara, in disguise, traveling as an official of the Organization of American States with a Uruguayan passport, leaves Cuba, passing through Moscow, Prague, Vienna, and Brazil en route to Bolivia.

**November 3** – Guevara arrives secretly in La Paz.

**November 7** – Guevara and several other combatants reach the “zinc house” at the Ñancahuazú site.

**November 11** – The combatants establish themselves at their first camp, several miles from the zinc house.

**November-December** – Cuban internationalists and Bolivian fighters arrive at the camp. Scouting parties explore the area.

**December 16** – Guerrilla contingent moves to the site of their main camp.

**December 31** – Bolivian CP leader Mario Monje comes to the Ñancahuazú camp and meets with Guevara. When his demand for leadership of the column is refused, he breaks off talks and urges Bolivian cadres to desert.

## 1967

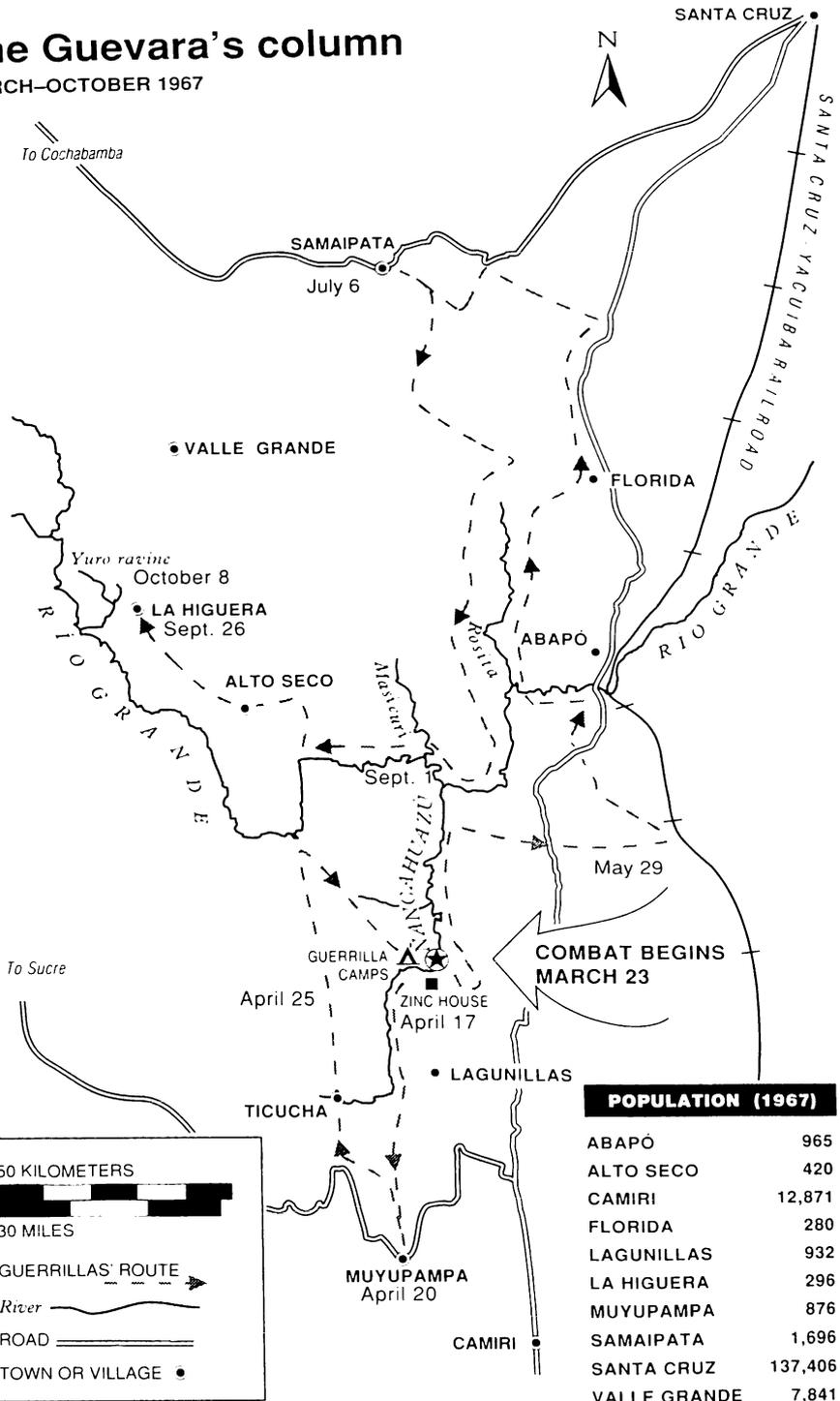
**January 8–10** – Bolivian CP Central Committee endorses Monje’s stance. Subsequently Bolivian volunteers are dissuaded from joining the revolutionary front and several fighters are expelled from the leadership of the CP’s youth group.

**January 26** – Guevara meets with miners’ leader Moisés Guevara, who agrees to join the guerrilla movement with 20 members of his group, which had split from the pro-Peking Communist

- Party (Marxist-Leninist) over the CP(M-L)'s refusal to support launching of revolutionary front.
- February 1** – Guerrillas undertake exploratory and training journey. The trip is planned to last three weeks, but takes seven. A small group remains at camp.
- February-March** – New recruits continue to arrive at the Ñancahuazú camp, including Moisés Guevara and 11 other members of his group, Peruvian combatants, and individuals who belonged to the Bolivian CP and CP youth. Régis Debray and Ciro Bustos arrive at camp for discussions with Guevara on organizing international solidarity. Tania, who escorts them, remains with column when her cover is blown.
- February 26** – Benjamín drowns in the Río Grande, the first fatality among the combatants.
- February 28** – The forward detachment led by Marcos gets separated from the rest of the troops while crossing the Río Grande. Their presence in the village of Tatarenda several days later arouses the army's suspicion.
- March 11** – Two new recruits from Moisés Guevara's group desert from the base camp. They are captured three days later and inform the army of Che Guevara's presence.
- March 12** – The forward detachment led by Marcos arrives back at the Ñancahuazú camp.
- March 17** – Carlos drowns while crossing the Río Grande. The Ñancahuazú farm is raided by 60 troops, capturing Salustio, one of the newly arrived recruits acting as a messenger. One soldier is shot.
- March 20** – The main guerrilla force returns to camp. Guevara orders an ambush if the army advances on the camp.
- March 23** – In first combat action, army troops ambushed along the Ñancahuazú, killing 7. News of the action causes a sensation throughout the country.
- March 25** – The combatants adopt the name National Liberation Army of Bolivia (ELN). Four Bolivian recruits are expelled from the column.
- March 27** – U.S. Lt. Col. Redmond Weber and Maj. Robert Shelton

# Che Guevara's column

MARCH–OCTOBER 1967



### POPULATION (1967)

ABAPÓ	965
ALTO SECO	420
CAMIRI	12,871
FLORIDA	280
LAGUNILLAS	932
LA HIGUERA	296
MUYUPAMPA	876
SAMAIPATA	1,696
SANTA CRUZ	137,406
VALLE GRANDE	7,841

- arrive in Bolivia, followed the next day by 15 U.S. counterinsurgency instructors.
- April** – U.S. military advisers and CIA personnel continue to arrive in Bolivia. Washington steps up shipment of arms to Bolivian military.
- April 10** – An army column is ambushed at the Iripiti river (Monkey Creek), with 10 dead. Rubio is killed, the first combatant to die in action.
- April 11** – Bolivian dictatorship bans Communist Party, Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), and Revolutionary Workers Party (POR) and arrests a number of their leaders.
- April 15** – 400,000 demonstrate against the Vietnam War in New York City and 75,000 in San Francisco.
- April 16** – Guevara's "Message to the Tricontinental," written in 1966 before he left Cuba and containing Che's assessment of the world political situation, is published in Cuba. The article calls for revolutionary forces everywhere to come to the aid of the Vietnamese fighters and outlines the perspectives for the struggle in Latin America.
- April 17** – Main column commanded by Guevara heads south to escort Debray and Bustos to safety. Rear guard led by Joaquín remains behind to care for combatants who are sick. Meant to last three days, the separation of forces becomes permanent.
- April 19** – Journalist George Andrew Roth — suspected by the fighters of being an intelligence agent — tracks them to their zone of operations. After interrogation by Inti he is given a written account of recent guerrilla actions prepared by Guevara.
- April 19–20** – Debray, Bustos, and Roth are dropped off outside Muyupampa but are arrested hours later. Over the coming months, the imprisonment and trial of Debray and Bustos become a focus of world attention. Roth is released July 8 and disappears.
- April 22** – Guerrillas clash with army troops at Taperillas. Loro becomes separated from the column; he is later captured, tortured, and executed. Guevara's pseudonym is changed

from Ramón to Fernando.

**April 25** – Army column is ambushed at El Mesón. Rolando is killed in the fighting.

**May 1** – Communiqué no. 1 of ELN is published in *Prensa Libre* of Cochabamba.

**May 8** – Army column is ambushed at the Ñancahuazú. Three soldiers are killed.

Venezuelan fighters joined by Cuban volunteers stage landing by sea in an attempt to join up with MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) guerrilla front in El Bachiller region of Venezuela. The expedition is destroyed. Its leader, Cuban Antonio Briones, is captured and murdered in custody.

**May 23** – Pepe, one of the expelled guerrillas being escorted by Joaquín's column, deserts. He is captured by army troops three days later and murdered.

**May 30** – Main column ambushes government troops between El Espino and Muchiri. Three soldiers are killed.

**May 31** – Main column clashes with army outside of Muchiri, killing one.

**June 2** – Víctor and Marcos, members of Joaquín's column, are killed in battle near Bella Vista.

**June 10** – Main column clashes with army troops at El Cafetal, killing one.

**June 20** – Based on information provided by Paulino, a peasant who has volunteered to join the combatants, three army spies are taken prisoner by the guerrillas in Abapó. Several days later Paulino is sent to Cochabamba to deliver messages, in attempt to renew contacts. He is captured by the army and tortured.

**June 23–24** – With resistance to the dictatorship's moves against tin miners growing, Bolivian army troops occupy mining camps at Siglo XX mines and open fire on workers and their families as they sleep; scores are killed.

**June 26** – Main column ambushes troops at Florida. Tuma and 3 soldiers are killed.

**July 1** – Bolivian dictator Barrientos publicly announces Guevara's

- presence in the country.
- July 6** – A detachment of main column captures Samaipata, capital of Florida province. One soldier is killed and 9 are taken prisoner.
- July 9** – Serapio, a member of Joaquín's column, is killed in action.
- July 20** – Eusebio and Chingolo, expelled guerrillas under escort of Joaquín's column, desert and are captured. Chingolo subsequently leads the army to combatants' strategic supply caves.
- July 27** – Guevara's column ambushes army troops at La Cruz, killing several.
- July 30** – Combatants clash with troops at Suspiro river. Ricardo, Raúl, and 4 government troops are killed.
- July 31–August 10** – Organization of Latin American Solidarity (OLAS) conference is held in Havana; conference proclaims support for guerrilla movements throughout Latin America; Guevara is elected honorary chair.
- August 9** – Joaquín's column clashes with army near Monteagudo. Pedro is killed in the battle.
- August 26** – Guevara's column skirmishes with troops at the Río Grande.
- August 31** – Betrayed by peasant Honorato Rojas, Joaquín's column is annihilated while fording the Río Grande at the Puerto Mauricio ford. Killed in the ambush are Joaquín, Braulio, Alejandro, Tania, Walter, Polo, and Moisés Guevara. Ernesto is captured and executed. Negro escapes but is captured and executed four days later.
- September 3** – One government soldier is killed in skirmish with Guevara's column in the lower Masicuri region.
- September 6** – Guerrillas clash with troops.
- September 14** – Loyola Guzmán is arrested in La Paz as hundreds of suspected ELN collaborators are rounded up and imprisoned.
- September 22** – Guevara's column occupies town of Alto Seco. They hold meeting in local schoolhouse addressed by Guevara and Inti.
- September 26** – Forward detachment falls into army ambush at La

- Higuera. Coco, Miguel, and Julio are killed. Camba and León desert.
- September 27** – León surrenders to Bolivian army and turns informer. Camba is captured while trying to return to the guerrilla unit
- October 8** – Guevara's column is cornered in the Yuro ravine. Aniceto, Antonio, and Arturo are killed in the fighting, as well as four soldiers. Pacho and Che Guevara, both wounded, are taken prisoner, along with Willy and Chino, and moved to the schoolhouse at La Higuera. Pacho dies of his wounds during the night.
- October 9** – After consulting Washington, the Bolivian government orders Guevara's execution. Willy, Chino, and Guevara are shot.
- October 10** – Pombo, Inti, Ñato, Urbano, Benigno, and Darío — one of two groups of combatants to escape following Yuro ravine clash — hear the news of Guevara's murder. They vow to continue the struggle and select Pombo as leader.
- October 12** – The other group — Pablito, Eustaquio, Moro, and Chapaco — are killed by troops as they try to escape the encirclement. Group led by Pombo clashes with troops at Naranjal, killing 5, and breaks out of encirclement.
- October 18** – A mass rally is held in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution. Fidel Castro delivers political tribute to Guevara and other fallen combatants.
- November 15** – Ñato is mortally wounded in combat in Mataral.
- November 16** – Debray and Bustos are sentenced to 30 years in prison.
- December 4** – The combatants meet peasant Don Víctor near San Isidro. For the next month he and his family shelter them from Bolivian army pursuit.
- December 15** – The five combatants agree to divide into two groups to try to establish contact with supporters in the cities. Inti and Urbano depart for Cochabamba, arriving the next day.
- December 26** – In line with arrangements made by Inti and Urbano, a team from Cochabamba makes contact with the three other

guerrillas to plan for their rescue.

### 1968

- January 5** – Pombo, Benigno, and Darío are picked up in a rescue operation carried out by urban supporters. They reach Cochabamba the following day.
- January 11–22** – Guerrilla veterans make their way to La Paz with aid of supporters.
- January** – Fighters from Vietnam's National Liberation Front mount the Tet Offensive, taking the fight against the U.S. occupation army into the heart of South Vietnam's cities.
- February 4** – Pombo and Inti discuss perspective for regrouping and continuing the revolutionary struggle in Bolivia.
- February 17** – Pombo, Urbano, and Benigno elude a massive army presence at the border and cross into Chilean territory. The two Bolivian veterans, Inti and Darío, remain in Bolivia to reorganize the ELN.
- February 23** – The three Cuban combatants turn themselves in to Chilean authorities.
- February 25** – Cuban veterans of struggle leave Chilean mainland for Isla de Pascua (Easter Island) accompanied by Chilean senator Salvador Allende. From there they begin a return trip to Cuba that takes them around the globe.
- March 6** – Pombo, Urbano, and Benigno arrive in Cuba.
- Mid-March** – Microfilms of Guevara's diary are smuggled out of Bolivia and brought to Cuba, together with a typed transcript of the first notebook of Pombo's diary. The copies are secretly provided by Antonio Arguedas, Bolivia's minister of the interior.
- April 4** – U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Antigovernment outrage erupts in Black communities across country.
- May-June** – Student protests in France against the Vietnam War are violently repressed by the police. Students occupy universities around the country and barricade streets. Workers join

protests against de Gaulle government and a general strike paralyzes country for weeks.

**July 1** – Guevara's diary is published in Cuba, foiling Bolivian military's plans to exploit its theft of the document. The following day diary is published in translation in the U.S., and a half dozen other editions around the world quickly appear.

**July 19** – A manifesto by Inti Peredo is published calling for resumption of the guerrilla struggle in Bolivia.

**August-September** – Inti Peredo travels to Cuba, where he discusses plans to resume the guerrilla struggle together with Cuban veterans and Bolivian combatant Darío.

**October 2** – After more than two months of deepening student protests against police repression, Mexican police fire on gathering of 20,000 in Tlatelolco square of Mexico City. Hundreds are killed.

## 1969

**April 27** – Barrientos is killed in a helicopter crash. Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas replaces him as president.

**May** – A general strike erupts in Rosario, Argentina's second-largest city, followed by a massive uprising in Córdoba, the third-largest city. The *Cordobazo* ushers in a period of rapidly sharpening class struggle in Argentina. After workers movement fails repeatedly to resolve conflict in its interests, struggle culminates in 1976 military coup and infamous "dirty war" waged by dictatorship of Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla in which over ten thousand Argentines are estimated killed or "disappeared."

**September 9** – Inti Peredo is killed in La Paz by Bolivian police and army forces, tipped off by an informer.

**September 26** – Siles Salinas is overthrown in a coup by Gen. Alfredo Ovando.

**November 15** – 750,000 anti-Vietnam War protesters march in Washington and 250,000 in San Francisco.

**December 31** – David Adriazola (*Darío*), remaining Bolivian veteran

of the guerrilla front, is murdered by police in La Paz.

### 1970

- May** – Following the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the murder of antiwar protesters at Kent State and Jackson State universities, a massive student strike and occupation of schools sweeps the United States, involving over four million students. Demonstrations of tens of thousands occur in scores of cities across the country as opposition to U.S. government policy broadens.
- June** – Mass demonstrations in Bolivia protest brutal government murder of ELN organizer Elmo Catalán and his pregnant wife, Jenny Koeller.
- July** – 75 ELN members attempt to set up a new guerrilla front in Teoponte, north of La Paz under the leadership of Chato Peredo, brother of Inti. Through a hostage exchange they win release of Loyola Guzmán and other imprisoned revolutionaries. Within eight weeks, military offensive annihilates all but a handful of the guerrillas.
- August 26** – Over 50,000 demonstrate for women's rights in New York City. Nationwide actions mark the opening of new wave of women's liberation movement in U.S.
- August 29** – 30,000 march in Los Angeles in National Chicano Moratorium against Vietnam War. Police attack demonstrators, killing three.
- August-September** – Class struggle sharpens throughout Bolivia as workers and students press for concessions and a sector of the ruling class demands harsher measures be taken.
- September 4** – On the shoulders of rising working-class and peasant militancy, Socialist Party leader Salvador Allende is elected president of Chile. He holds office until September 11, 1973, when a bloody right-wing military coup deals decisive defeat to workers movement.
- October 6-7** – General Ovando resigns presidency and turns power over to an ultrarightist military junta. In face of massive

popular mobilizations in the streets to counter this takeover, the Bolivian army divides and a second coup is carried out against the rightists by Gen. Juan José Torres.

**December 23** – Torres regime issues amnesty for Debray, Bustos, and others imprisoned for their role in the 1967 guerrilla movement.

### 1971

**January 10** – An attempted coup against the Torres regime is defeated by a massive popular mobilization. Thousands of armed miners arrive in La Paz.

**February** – Riding the wave of popular mobilization, a People's Assembly — an incipient workers' parliament — is formed in Bolivia.

**August 19–22** – Following months of wavering and indecision by workers leaders, right-wing military forces led by Hugo Banzer overthrow Torres government. A wave of murderous repression follows.

### 1975

**April 30** – U.S. forces abandon Saigon, and Vietnamese fighters achieve victory in decades-long battle for national liberation.

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# PART ONE

July 1966  
May 1967