

60 Western Intellectuals Berate Castro



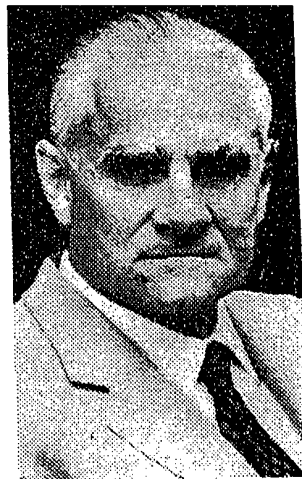
Associated Press

Jean-Paul Sartre



Luffi Ozkok

Susan Sontag



Alberto Moravia

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 21—Sixty European and American intellectuals, among them Jean-Paul Sartre, Alberto Moravia and Susan Sontag, have written to Premier Fidel Casto to express their disillusionment with him over Cuba's treatment of the poet Heberto Padilla.

The letter, which was distributed here last night, recalled that the signatories had defended the Cuban revolution from the very first as "a model in the realm of socialism." But

now, the letter declared, they felt it their duty to convey their shame and anger to Mr. Castro.

Their reaction had been aroused by a 4,000-word "confession" signed by Mr. Padilla during his recent imprisonment in Havana. He was arrested March 20 on unspecified charges and released April 28.

In the confession, the text of which was distributed outside Cuba by the Government press agency, Prensa Latina, Mr. Padilla, who is 39 years old, ac-

cused himself of having slandered the Cuban revolution, notably in conversations with visiting foreign intellectuals. The poet, who described himself as ignoble, unjust, cowardly, treacherous and lying, said two of the intellectuals worked for the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

In the letter the 60 intellectuals described the document as delirious and termed the accusations of C.I.A. affiliation

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60 INTELLECTUALS DENOUNCE CASTRO

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absurd. The signers also included Carlos Franqui, the former editor of the Havana daily *Revolución* and erstwhile close friend and aide of the Premier.

A prominent French expert on Latin America, Marcel Niedergang, commented in the newspaper *Le Monde* today that the letter marked the effective break of European, United States and Latin-American intellectuals with the Cuban regime that they enthusiastically supported in the nineteen-sixties.

The Padilla case drew protests earlier this month from such Latin-American figures as Julio Cortázar, an Argentine writer who lives in Paris, and Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist.
