



*Cuban nurse takes blood pressure in a street clinic in the Miramar neighborhood of Havana.*

ment in the struggle to overthrow Batista. All were leaders in the 26th of July Movement. The last two were active in the underground war fought in the cities in the years prior to 1959, while Celia Sánchez, the daughter of a wealthy physician, was one of those who fought in the Sierra Maestra Mountains with Castro and participated with him in the triumphant march across the island from Santiago to Havana after Batista had fled. Santamaría also served as a diplomat for the revolutionary movement, seeking weapons and political support outside Cuba. Espín, who attended MIT as a graduate student and was from a wealthy family in Santiago, coordinated the underground movement in Oriente Province. She later married Raúl Castro and was the president of the Federation of Cuban Women

(FMC in Spanish) from its founding in 1960 until 2001.

The FMC was organized early in the revolutionary process as a way of mobilizing women in support of the revolution. One way in which women were told they could be supportive was to become a part of the labor force as the country struggled to develop economically and to overcome the U.S. economic sanctions. However, some scholars hold that it was not their revolutionary fervor that brought about the changes in women's participation in the labor force but the modernization of Cuba's economy that began early in the twentieth century and continued with the revolution. Attitudes needed for the change in women's (and men's) roles developed only slowly, as studies by the FMC