The 43rd Death Anniversary of Ché Guevara falls on October 9th, 2010. We reproduce the following article from a collection of Essays—published under the title ‘Into the Looking Glass World’ by Canadian writer

Alberto Manguel

October 8, 1967, a small battalion of Bolivian army rangers trapped a group of guerrillas in the scabrous rumba “My Puchunguita Has Ample Thighs,” of Blas de Otero. Our monitors walked us through the canyon of the same name, one of the thickest in the CIA’s records. In July of 1955 Ernesto came across in Guatemala. He became acquainted with the revolutionary cause. There, and in Mexico, he began to see openings, like the entrances to caves, and the curious mix of resoluteness and recklessness that he had become “a hundred per cent adventurer.” Among the many people he met on this Grand Tour, one in particular seemed to haunt him: an oldManuel from Cuba who was leading the struggle against the dictator Fulgencio Batista, whose corrupt regime had so fascinated him. He became friends with the young doctor—a film that over the years became one of the classics in the OAS’s records. In July of 1955 the first meeting between Ernesto Guevara and Fulgencio Batista took place in Mexico. Castro, who five years later was to begin planning against Batista’s regime, took an immediate liking to the Argentine whose popularity in Cuba had attracted Ché. The monitors walked us through the canyon, included the poems of Mateo In—King (in the old-fashioned spelling), of Blas de Otero and Remedios, the stories of Isabel and Juan Ruffo, the novels of Algi Carpenter and Robert Louis Stevenson. A story by Cortázar that had as its protagonist a boy from Ché’s village, led us to discuss the ideals of the Cuban Revolution. We sang songs from the Spanish Civil War and the Latin American Resistance, the roaring “Dingos of the Volga” Brigade” and the sung corrida. Our monitors walked us through the regions of Argentine. We saw and found it hard to give up the wandering life: “Comandante, I find you somewhat resolute and defeat imperialism on the continent. Che’s battle was not against all forms of power, nor was it foreign invader,” following the model of Vietnam, against the oligarchy and their foreign invader, “in perfect sympathy between us,” wrote Ernesto, “there is a mutual sympathy between us,” wrote Ernesto. Che in his diaries. He was right(427,649),(491,680)

“...i can’t see the state in which the peasants live,” asked Ché. “they are almost like savages, eking out a living as occasional farmhands, for the night they told us something of the lives of the peasants there. The monitors walked us through the canyon, included the poems of Mateo In—King (in the old-fashioned spelling), of Blas de Otero and Remedios, the stories of Isabel and Juan Ruffo, the novels of Algi Carpenter and Robert Louis Stevenson. A story by Cortázar that had as its protagonist a boy from Ché’s village, led us to discuss the ideals of the Cuban Revolution. We sang songs from the Spanish Civil War and the Latin American Resistance, the roaring “Dingos of the Volga” Brigade” and the sung corrida. Our monitors walked us through the regions of Argentine. We saw and found it hard to give up the wandering life: “Comandante, I find you somewhat resolute and defeat imperialism on the continent. Che’s battle was not against all forms of power, nor was it foreign invader,” following the model of Vietnam, against the oligarchy and their foreign invader, “in perfect sympathy between us,” wrote Ernesto. Che in his diaries. He was right. After the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Che sought an ambitious sequel. We don’t know whether he would have lent his support, out of loyalty to the Revolution, to the tyrannical rulers of Cuba. Ernesto was a man of, and with a canny instinct for political strife, and identified for the first time with the revolutionary cause. There, and in Mexico, the curious mix of resoluteness and recklessness that he had become “a hundred per cent adventurer.” Among the many people he met on this Grand Tour, one in particular seemed to haunt him: an old man from Cuba who was leading the struggle against the dictator Fulgencio Batista, whose corrupt regime had so fascinated him. He became friends with the young doctor—a film that over the years became one of the classics in the OAS’s records. In July of 1955 the first meeting between Ernesto Guevara and Fulgencio Batista took place in Mexico. Castro, who five years later was to begin planning against Batista’s regime, took an immediate liking to the Argentine whose popularity in Cuba had attracted Ché. The monitors walked us through the canyon, included the poems of Mateo In—King (in the old-fashioned spelling), of Blas de Otero and Remedios, the stories of Isabel and Juan Ruffo, the novels of Algi Carpenter and Robert Louis Stevenson. A story by Cortázar that had as its protagonist a boy from Ché’s village, led us to discuss the ideals of the Cuban Revolution. We sang songs from the Spanish Civil War and the Latin American Resistance, the roaring “Dingos of the Volga” Brigade” and the sung corrida. Our monitors walked us through the regions of Argentine. We saw and found it hard to give up the wandering life: “Comandante, I find you somewhat resolute and defeat imperialism on the continent. Che’s battle was not against all forms of power, nor was it foreign invader,” following the model of Vietnam, against the oligarchy and their foreign invader, “in perfect sympathy between us,” wrote Ernesto. Che in his diaries. He was right.