

THE JOURNEY OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO .../ ONE  
BY LIONEL MARTIN  
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THERE WAS A TIME, LESS THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WHEN  
AFRICA AND EUROPE MEANT EXILE TO CUBANS WHO STRUGGLED FOR  
THEIR COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AGAINST SPAIN.

THERE WAS A TIME, LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN  
ALL AFRICA SUFFERED UNDER DIRECT COLONIAL RULE.

THERE WAS A TIME, LESS THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, WHEN ALL  
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WERE  
ANATHEMA TO THE CUBA GOVERNMENT.

THERE WAS A TIME, LESS THAN A DOZEN YEARS AGO, WHEN CUBA,  
UNDER A NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, BEGAN A NEW ERA OF FRA-  
TERNAL RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD NATIONS THAT HAD WON OR WE-  
RE FIGHTING FOR THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND WITH THE SOCIA-  
LIST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND ASIA.

SEEN AS A TIME SEQUENCE, EACH OF THESE SPOT CHECKS ON  
HISTORY HELPS US TO SEE, IN PERSPECTIVE, THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO'S JOURNEY THROUGH LANDS OF  
AFRICA AND EUROPE. HIS TRIP IS THE FULLEST EXPRESSION OF A  
CHANGED WORLD-A CHANGED AFRICA, A CHANGED EUROPE AND A CHAN-  
GED LATIN AMERICA.

IF ONE SOUGHT A SINGLE WORD TO SUM UP THE MEANING OF  
FIDEL CASTRO'S TOUR ONE WOULD BE HARDPUT TO FIND A BETTER  
WORD THAN: "SOLIDARITY".

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THE JOURNEY OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO.../ TWO  
 DURING THE TRIP THIS SOLIDARITY OF PROGRESSIVE MANKIND  
 WAS EXPRESSED IN A THOUSAND OCCASIONS ON THE MOST DRAMATIC QUESTION  
 FACING THE WORLD TODAY: VIET NAM. ONE JOURNALIST,, WHO TRAVE-  
 LLED WITH FIDEL CASTRO'S PARTY, COMMENTED THAT THE CUBAN  
 PRIME MINISTER MADE HIS TOUR WAVING TWO FLAGS; THAT OF CUBA  
 AND THAT OF VIET NAM. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT ON  
 EACH AND EVERY DAY OF THE MONTHS LONG TRIP, FIDEL CASTRO SPoke  
 ABOUT THE STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND OF THE GE-  
 NOCIDIAL POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

EVERY OFFICIAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED ON THE LAST DAY  
 OF HIS TRIP IN EACH COUNTRY, THUS FOR VISITED CARRIED THE  
 MESSAGE OF FIGHTING VIET NAM. THE COMMUNIQUES SIGNED BY THE  
 CUBAN LEADER AND THE LEADERS OF GUINEA AND ALGERIA IN AFRICA,  
 AND BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND HUNGARY, IN EUROPE, HAVE INSISTED  
 ON THE "UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM  
 VIET NAM.

THE JOINT COMMUNIQUES ALSO EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY FOR OTHER  
 PEOPLES STRUGGLES ON OTHER CONTINENTS. THE FIGHT OF THE PEOP-  
 LE OF THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN GUINEA-BISSAU, CAPE VERDE,  
 ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE WAS MENTIONED IN ALL OF THEM. SO WAS  
 THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AGAINST  
 APARTHEID AND FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

MORE/AC

THE JOURNEY OF PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO .../ THREE  
EACH JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALSO INCLUDED WORDS OF SOLIDARITY  
FOR THE POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE WHICH IS FIGHTING  
UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES TO BRING ABOUT A PROFOUND SOCIAL  
AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THAT COUNTRY.

THE COUNTRIES WHEN FIDEL CASTRO VISITED WERE IN THEMSEL-  
VES INDICATIONS OF WHERE THE SENTIMENTS OF THE CUBAN REVOLU-  
TION LIE. GUINEA AND ALGERIA IN AFRICA, LIKE CUBA,  
COUNTRIES THAT HAVE WON THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE SINCE WORLD  
WAR TWO, HAVE BOTH ESTABLISHED SOLID TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH  
THE CARIBBEAN ISLE. BOTH, LIKE CUBA, HAVE CHALLENGED THE  
TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE METROPOLIS AND  
WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. BOTH HAVE PROCLAIMED A SOCIALIST  
ROAD OF CONSTRUCTION.

THE TOUR WHEN FIDEL CASTRO IS MAKING OF THE COUNTRIES  
OF THE SOCIALIST Bloc IN EUROPE WAS ONE MORE INDICATION OF  
CUBA'S CLOSE TIES WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. HE LOST NO OPPORTUNI-  
TY TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE TO THESE PEOPLES FOR THEIR  
TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL AID TO THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AND FOR  
THEIR MORAL, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT OVER THE PAST  
DOZEN YEARS.

MOKE/AG

THE JOURNEY OF PRIME MINISTER.../ FOUR AND FINAL

THE TOUR OF FIDEL CASTRO REPRESENTED A HIGH POINT IN STATE TO STATE, GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AND PARTY TO PARTY RELATIONS. JUST AS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, AND INSEPARABLE FROM THE OTHERS, WAS THE "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" ASPECT OF THE VISITS. CASTRO, AS WAS EXPECTED FROM THE PROTOCOL OF FORMAL AND RESERVED RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE. WHENEVER THE POSSIBILITY PRESENTED ITSELF, HE WAS AMONG THE PEOPLE, TALKING TO THEM THROUGH HIS EVER-PRESENT INTERPRETERS.

THE CUBAN PRIME MINISTER DID MANY THINGS THAT ENDEARED HIM TO THE PEOPLE. IN GUINEA HE DRESSED IN THE TRADITIONAL GARB OF THE COUNTRY AND IN POLAND HE PUT ON THE TRADITIONAL UNIFORM OF THE SILESIA MINERS. HE LEANED ON TRACTORS AND CARRIED ON A CONVERSATIONS WITH A WORKERS.

HE INVITED BYSTANDERS WHO HAD COME TO GREET HIM TO SIT DOWN, HAVE REFRESHMENTS AND CHAT. AT MONUMENTS TO UNKNOWN SOLDIERS, IN CEMETERIES, AT THE INFAMOUS AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP, FIDEL CASTRO EXPRESSED THE DEEP FEELING OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY HE FELT WITH THE VICTIMS AND HEROES OF THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM.

WHEREVER FIDEL CASTRO HAS GONE DURING HIS TRIP, HE WAS ACCLAIMED BY TENS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. FEW POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE WORLD TODAY COULD EXPECT SUCH GREETINGS IN FOREIGN LANDS.

END/AG