

NNNN

EUN422

CK 290736 NNNN

EUN423

290743 :PM-CASTRO

*WR politics - 106*

*Castro*

29 NOV. 1986

CUBAN PRESIDENT MEETS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

BY LIONEL MARTIN, REUTERS

HAVANA, NOV 29, REUTER - CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO HAS TOLD EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT DEMILITARISED ZONES SHOULD BE SET UP BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS TO REDUCE REGIONAL TENSIONS, MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TOLD REUTERS.

CASTRO SAID NEUTRAL TERRITORY ON NICARAGUA'S NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS WITH HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

MEMBERS OF THE 12-NATION GROUP SAID CASTRO ALSO DISCUSSED ARMS CONTROL, THE U.S.-IRAN ARMS SALE AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH CUBA IN AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE THREE-HOUR MEETING LAST NIGHT.

THE CUBAN PRESIDENT TOLD THE DELEGATION HE WAS ASTONISHED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CLAIM NOT TO HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM IRANIAN ARMS SALES TO THE CONTRA REBELS FIGHTING THE LEFTIST NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT.

DELEGATES SAID CASTRO TOLD THEM HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE WASHINGTON HAD INTENDED TO STEP UP ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST NICARAGUA BUT THAT THE CONTRA FUNDING SCANDAL MIGHT FORCE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO CHANGE ITS PLANS.

ONE PARLIAMENTARIAN SAID CASTRO MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT, BUT MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD WELCOME NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

OTHERS SAID CASTRO SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR TOTAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE YEAR 2000. HE SAID THAT EUROPE HAD SO MANY WEAPONS ON ITS SOIL THAT IF WAR CAME IT WOULD BE DESTROYED.

MORE