

020215 :BC-DEFENCE =1.1 HHVHHH

CHSIRU SAID IN HIS REPORT TO A PARTY CONGRESS EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT ALMOST 80 PER CENT OF THE COMBAT POTENTIAL OF CUBA POPULATION, THAT IS, MEN AND WOMEN PHYSICALLY FIT TO FIGHT, IS ORGANIZED. +

THIS FIGURE INCLUDES ORDINARY PEOPLE INTERVIEWED IN THE ARMED FORCES AND MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, AND ALSO COMMITTEES FOR DEFENCE OF THE REVOLUTION WHICH IN THEMSELVES HAVE OVER SIX MILLION MEMBERS. THEY ARE NON-COMBATANT, ORGANIZED IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CUBA BUT IN TIME OF WAR WOULD JOIN IN DEFENCE EFFORTS.

WHILE CUBA'S ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE WOULD CONFRONT THE ENEMY IN CONVENTIONAL WARFARE, PEOPLE'S MILITIA WOULD, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER URRRHH, +ORGANIZE COMBAT ACTIONS AS WELL AS MANAGE ECONOMIC PRODUCTION AND THE LIFE OF THE POPULATION UNDER BATTLE CONDITIONS. +

+THE WORK OF ALL THE PEOPLE, + URRRHH SAID, +CUBANS' CONDITIONS FOR CARRYING OUT AN ARMED STRUGGLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL PHYSICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS. +

THE +WORK OF ALL THE PEOPLE+, ACCORDING TO CUBAN OFFICIALS, WILL BE THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF CUBA'S COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH HAS 500,000 MEMBERS OUT OF A TOTAL POPULATION OF 10.2 MILLION. THEY WOULD WORK THROUGH A CHAIN OF DEFENCE COUNCILS.

IF THE ISLAND WERE OCCUPIED AND CONVENTIONAL WARFARE CENSED, THE MILITARY WOULD INCORPORATE THEMSELVES INTO GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES, CUBAN SOURCES SAY.

LOCAL MILITIA FORCES AND THE CLOSELY ALLIED PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE BRIGADES ARE RECEIVING INSTRUCTION IN LOCAL SCHOOLS AND AT WEEKENDS. CUBAN SOURCES SAY THAT ABOUT 100,000 OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRAINED FOR THE TERRITORIAL MILITIA.

RUKE