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:CUBA-NIGHT WATCHMEN

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT WATCHMEN CUT CRIME RATE IN HAVANA. CUBANS SAY HAVANA, SEPT 24, REUTER - MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK AS WATCHMEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF HAVANA BETWEEN ONE AND SIX IN THE MORNING HAVE HELPED TO DECREASE THE RATE OF CRIME IN THE CITY, GRANMA REPORTED TODAY.

AT PRESENT ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FOUR ZONES OF THIS CITY OF TWO MILLION HAVE NIGHT WATCHMEN WHO RECEIVE A SALARY OF ONE HUNDRED PESOS (126 DOLLARS) FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SYSTEM OF +VIGILANTES NOCTURNAS+ AS THEY ARE OFFICIALLY CALLED WAS INTRODUCED LAST JULY IN AN EFFORT TO DIMINISH THE CRIME RATE, ESPECIALLY ROBBERIES, IN HAVANA.

GRANMA SAID AN AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY THREE ZONES OF THE CITY WILL HAVE NIGHT WATCHMEN BY OCTOBER 2.

THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT 1,162 OF THE 4,360 NIGHT WATCHMEN IN HAVANA ARE WOMEN. THE WATCHMEN WERE CHOSEN FROM AMONG HOUSEWIVES AND RETIRED PERSONS ON A NEIGHBORHOOD BASIS BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION (CDR'S)

THE CDR'S WERE ORGANIZED ON EVERY CITY BLOCK OF ALL CUBAN CITIES IN 1960, A YEAR AFTER THE TRIUMPH OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION. THEIR MAIN TASK IS REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE WHICH MEANS GUARDING THE NEIGHBORHOODS AGAINST COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES AND DELINQUENTS ALIKE. THE CDR'S ALSO MAKE SURE THAT CHILDREN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ATTEND SCHOOL AND ARE VACCINATED.

THE NIGHT WATCHMEN WORK IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE. THEY WEAR SPECIAL ARMBANDS AND ARE ISSUED FLASHLIGHTS AND WHISTLES.

THE GRANMA ARTICLE, REPORTING ON A MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF THE CDR'S COMPLAINED THAT IN MANY NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE CITY MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE NOT FULFILLING THEIR VOLUNTEER GUARD DUTIES BETWEEN TEN AT NIGHT AND ONE IN THE MORNING.

==REUTER/LEM 1143

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MIS:MILITARY BHAVANA

THE WEAPONS IN THE PARADE WERE SOVIET-MADE. THE SOVIET UNION SUPPLIES WEAPONS TO CUBA FREE OF CHARGE. T-54 TANKS, BRDA ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES, BMP INFANTRY COMBAT VEHICLES, BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, ZSU-23 & SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AS WELL AS SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES WERE AMONG THE MILITARY HARDWARE THAT ROLLED THROUGH REVOLUTION SQUARE.

CONTINGENTS OF THE CUBAN ARMY, NAVY, MARINE INFANTRY AND AIRFORCE INCLUDING CADETS FROM MILITARY ACADEMIES MARCHED BY THE REVIEWING STAND. CONTINGENTS OF THE YOUTH LABOR ARMY, A WOMEN'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT AND TROOPS BELONG TO THE VOLUNTEER TERRITORIAL PEOPLE'S MILITIA AND THE PRODUCTION AND DEFENSE BRIGADES ALSO CROSSED THE SQUARE IN FRONT OF THE REVIEWING STAND AS THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES BAND PLAYED

THE PARADE ALSO INCLUDED A CAVALRY BRIGADE WHOSE MEMBERS BRANDISHED LONG MACHETES AND WORE THE WHITE UNIFORMS AND STRAW HATS OF CUBA'S INDEPENDENCE FIGHTERS DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

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