

Mo. 2 in Cuba.

Puerto Rican Nationalist William Morales  
in Cuba

Time Magazine June 30, 1988

WR 175

Msg asks about William Morales

U.S. said June 28 outrage by U.S. at Mexico for allowing the Puerto Rican nationalist Morales to fly to Cuba.

U.S. said it undercuts international war against terrorism. "It really has serious implications for the fight against terrorism." State spokesman Charles Redman told reporters. Said find action "inexplicable".

Morales, 37, arrested in 1978 sentenced to more than 100 years in prison on weapons and explosives charges. Escaped from Belvue in 1979 and fled to Mexico.

Convicted in Mexico in 1983 for killing a policeman-- serviced five years of eight year term...was released last Friday June 24 and allowed to board a plane to Cuba.

U.S. recalls ambassador and calls Mex amb in Washington in to State....

Lionel's... — DICTATED TO ELAINE 6/30/88 1:45 PM

Cubans as of June 30, Thursday maintaining hermetic silence on Morales presence in Cuba. But one diplomat said, "If the Cubans didn't want to accept him they wouldn't have given him an entry visa."

Cuba's sympathy for the cause of Puerto Rican independence from the United States is one of the major bones of contention between successive U.S. government and Fidel Castro's regime.

Jose Marti, the great leader of the Cuban independence struggle against Spain at the end of the last century believed that with the defeat of Spain, Puerto Rico like Cuba, both Cuban colonies would gain their national independence.

Fidel Castro, as a twenty year old law student at the University of Havana, belonged to the Committee for Puerto Rican Independence.

Each year, at the United Nations, the Cuban delegates bring up the cause of Puerto Rican independence and consider that United States hegemony in Puerto Rico is a disguised form of colonialism.

The Cubans have never spoken in favor of terroristic methods used by Puerto Rican independence fighters. But it is clear that they sympathize with anybody who fights for the right of Puerto Rico to be a free nation.

In November 1979 Cuban president Fidel Castro pinned Ciuba's most important medal on the lapel of Oscar Collazo who spent 29 years in a Federal Penitentiary in the U.S. after being convicted of first degree murder. Collazo, an activist in the Puerto Rican independence movement shot it out with police on November 1, 1950 after they attempted to get into Blair House in Washington in order to call attention to their cause.