

WR 200
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09Jan89 CUBA: CASTRO WARNS NEXT GENERATION TO GUARD AGAINST IMPERIALISTS.

By Lionel Martin

HAVANA, Jan 9, Reuter - President Fidel Castro told a mass rally in Havana imperialists believed the next generation in power in Cuba would make the destruction of socialism easier.

"They calculate that the generation that did not live under capitalism has few points of comparison between the present and the past and that it will therefore be less committed to the revolution," Castro told a meeting of 20,000 youths on Sunday evening.

With a dove perched on his shoulder, the Cuban leader was speaking at Ciudad Libertad, the site of his first speech in Havana after his revolution triumphed 30 years ago.

The site was called Camp Colombia and was Cuba's major military base at the time his rebel army took the capital.

Many of the youths, wearing school uniforms, shouted "Fidel, Fidel," as the bearded leader, now 62, urged them to defend their revolution.

Imperialist ideologues, he said, believed that when the next generation came to power in Cuba the task of destroying the revolution would be easier because that generation would be less committed to the revolution.

The meeting began with the arrival of several dozen boys and girls who had crossed the length of the island over the past six days, tracing the route of Castro and his rebel army three decades earlier. They wore army uniforms and carried small rifles. Many of the boys wore false beards.

As Castro began to speak a white dove, one of many released for the occasion, perched on his shoulder for several minutes before flying off. The same thing had happened on January 8, 1959, when he spoke at the site.

Castro said "arrogant and haughty imperialism has not renounced the idea of liquidating socialism in Cuba and on a world level."

Imperialists would not necessarily use military force against socialism but attack "by means of subversions, corrosion and, if possible, the destruction of the socialist system from inside," he said.

He referred to "a kind of imperialist euphoria" arising from Western perceptions that reforms in some socialist countries indicate recognition that "capitalist economic mechanisms are the only good ones".

The task of the future generation of Cuban leaders, he said, will be "to perfect socialism in our country without using capitalist mechanisms and forms".

Castro, who has not introduced reforms similar to Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" or economic restructuring, said other nations had the right to experiment with their socialism, just as Cuba had the right to follow its own path.

He said he was not opposed to using monetary incentives as a lever for increasing productivity "but we do not think it is the fundamental factor in building socialism".

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