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27 Jul 89 CUBA: CASTRO SAYS BUSH HOPES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOCIALIST PROBLEMS.

By Lionel Martin

HAVANA, July 26, Reuter - Cuban President Fidel Castro charged on Wednesday that President George Bush will increase Washington's hostility towards Cuba because of his belief that world socialism is in crisis.

Accusing Bush of peddling capitalism in Eastern Europe and seeking to take advantage of the changes sweeping the Communist world, Castro said Washington had become "more insolent and threatening than ever."

Because Bush believes "that socialism is on the wane" his administration "will carry out a policy of peace toward the big (Communist) powers and a policy of war against small countries," the Cuban leader said.

"Never has any U.S. administration, not even that of Reagan, shown such a triumphal attitude, growing out of difficulties in the socialist camp," Castro said in a nationally televised speech.

The speech, in the eastern Cuban province of Camaguey, commemorates July 26, 1953 when Castro began his armed struggle to bring down the regime of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista.

"The fact is that there are difficulties," the bearded Cuban leader said of the changes taking place across the Communist world. "We have to be realistic."

He referred specifically to the recent defeat of Communist Party candidates in Polish and Hungarian elections and said no one could rule out "a peaceful transition from socialism to capitalism" in those two countries.

But he warned that if such a transition occurred, Polish and Hungarian youths would be condemned to take "a little stroll through capitalism with its egotism, brutality and dehumanisation."

"Bush organised a triumphal visit to those two nations to encourage capitalist ideas," he said.

He said Cuba "defends the independent right of every nation and every Communist party to choose (its course)," but it asks "the same for all the countries of the Third World where the United States tries to prevent change by use of arms."

Castro concluded his speech with an apparent reference to the ethnic unrest and labour problems in the Soviet Union, the worst since the early days of the Communist takeover there.

He said it was his "most fervent desire that the Soviet Union achieves unity again."

No matter what happened elsewhere, he added, "Cuba and its revolution will continue to resist and fight."

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