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23Aug91 CUBA: STILL NO PUBLIC CUBAN STATEMENT ON GORBACHEV REINSTATEMENT.

By **Lionel Martin**

HAVANA, Aug 23, Reuter - The Cuban government maintained its official silence on Friday on the reinstatement of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev but continued to publish news agency reports.

It was impossible to find out from officials if Fidel Castro, head of both the Cuban government and Communist Party, had sent messages to Gorbachev since his return to power.

The published articles were presented without any comment or analysis.

One-third of both the front and back pages of Friday's edition of the official newspaper Granma were devoted to numerous small articles on events in the Soviet Union. Most were attributed to the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina and the Soviet news agency Tass.

The articles gave a brief wrap-up of Thursday's declarations by Gorbachev and a summary of Boris Yeltsin's speech to the Russian parliament.

One article announced the arrest of leaders of the 60-hour coup that collapsed on Wednesday and the suicide of former interior minister Boris Pugo.

Another dispatch spoke of anti-communist demonstrations in Moscow and the tearing down of the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the secret police.

Two days after the coup, the Cuban government issued a cautiously worded official statement which said that it is "not the task of the Cuban government to judge events in the U.S.S.R". It did not mention Gorbachev by name and it neither condemned the coup nor expressed overt support for the Emergency Committee.

The statement said that "we most fervently wish that the Soviet peoples overcome their difficulties peacefully".

Since then it has not made any official public statement on the situation in the Soviet Union.

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