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12Jun94 CUBA: U.S. REGATTA DEFIES PROTESTS AND ARRIVES IN HAVANA.

By **Liamel Martin**

HAVANA, June 12 (Router) - Dozens of U.S. sailboats berthed at Marina Hemingway Sunday after defying protests that sought to stop the revival of the annual Florida-Havana regatta 35 years after it began.

The regatta, sponsored jointly by the Sarasota Sailing Squadron of Florida and the International Nautical Club of Havana, got underway Friday despite demonstrations, threats and public protests by some Cuban-exile groups in Florida.

The regatta revived a traditional race from St Petersburg to Havana which began in 1930 and was held every March except during World War two until Fidel Castro's revolutionary regime came to power in 1959.

The boats carried their own provisions to get around the U.S. Trading with the Enemy Act which prohibits most American citizens from spending money in Cuba.

The Cuban hosts are footing the bill for docking and other fees.

"Actually, the chief of enforcement of the Treasury Department's Foreign Assets Division, met with the captains in Florida and told us what the law was and suggested that we all obey it - but that we were welcome to go to Cuba with the fleet of boats from Sarasota, Florida," said Charles Waygood a crewman aboard the 43 foot sailing sloop, *Zinnia*.

Waygood, an attorney and law professor from St Petersburg, Florida, said "one of my former law students led the Cuban-exile protesters in Sarasota but the fleet and sailors decided that it was time we came to Cuba on this race that hasn't been run in 35 years and we've done that and we are glad to be here."

When their boats docked, the Americans were treated to Cuban music and mojitos (rum mint juleps).

Skip McDaniel of Gulf Port, Mississippi who came over on a 36-foot Catalina said "It was an opportunity that we never thought we would see in our lifetimes, to come down here and see this beautiful place."

Hemingway lived for decades near Havana and is revered in Cuba. The Marina Hemingway is host to the annual Hemingway Fishing Tournament. Within a stone's throw of the docks is the "Papa" Hemingway restaurant and a hotel, now being renovated, called, "The Old Man and the Sea", the title of one of Hemingway's novels.

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