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03Sep95 CUBA: CUBA SET TO LIBERALIZE LAWS FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS.
By **Lionel Martin**
HAVANA, Sept 3 (Reuter) - Cuba's government, which says it will not give up socialism, is poised to approve a law which will give foreign capitalists the right to fully control business enterprises on the island.
Sunday's weekly Juventud Rebelde called the new Law on Foreign Investments, which is expected to be approved by Cuba's national parliament on Monday, "a daring step".
The article said that the bill, "recognizes that investments by foreign capital on the Island are no longer a transitory strategy but have become an everyday part of the Cuban economy".
The new law will allow foreign businesses who have the approval of the Cuban government to invest up to one hundred percent of the capital in enterprises in which they have total managerial and economic authority.
Businesses have been restricted by a 1982 law to investing in joint enteprises with the Cubans, normally with a 51-49 percent ratio in favor of the government.
Cuban officials hope the law will also make joint ventures with the Cuban government more attractive by considerably reducing the red tape that has driven some foreign businessmen into fits of frenzy. The law requires that the recently created Ministry of Foreign Investments give concrete replies to proposals by foreign businessmen within sixty days.
Prior to the 1982 law, no foreign investments were permitted on the island. Even after that law was put on the books, Fidel Castro's government showed little interest in attracting foreign businesses to invest in the economy which was almost totally owned and managed by the government.
The new law stipulates that any person who resides in a foreign country will be able to invest in Cuba in all spheres except defense, national security, public health and education.

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