

Cuba sees cruel joke

HAVANA, Thurs.,
(Cana-Reuter)

CUBA has rejected a proposed U.S. economic aid programme for the Caribbean as "a cruel joke," and said it ignored the crushing social problems of the people of the area.

Havana's first official response to the plan, unveiled by President Reagan last week, came in a strongly-worded editorial in the Communist Party daily, "Granma."

The Cuban newspaper said: "To try today to solve the problems of underdevelopment by appealing to a bit of tariff relief, the application of certain fiscal benefits for private and oligarchical sectors and the eventual attraction of transnational investments is an unreachable mirage."

NO ALLUSION

"There is not the slightest allusion to the need for change in the degrading and insupportable semi-feudal structures that reign in several Central American nations.

"There is not even a timid recognition of the horrible conditions of hunger, illiteracy, unsanitary conditions, backwardness and misery of the peoples of the area."

"Imperialism is not in a condition to offer any solutions to the problems that the people of Central America and the Caribbean face ... because it is precisely imperialism which is the principal cause that gave birth to, perpetuated and aggravated these problems."

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