

RB-2

on Fidel Castro's <sup>view about</sup> ~~the~~ Latin American and Caribbean Countries Foreign Debt

Cuban president Fidel Castro promised ~~with~~<sup>without</sup> pluralist and democratic dialogue on the question of the 360 billion dollar foreign debt of Latin America and the Caribbean. Although there was absolutely nobody who defended the International Monetary Funds tough guidelines for debtor nations, there were many points of view expressed and Fidel Castro sat through five days of sessions ~~with~~<sup>without</sup> just listening.

There were 1400 persons in attendance from every part of the southern hemisphere and over 300 persons gave speeches. There were 30 ~~ex~~ military men from Latin America, dozens of religious representatives including the former Bishop of Cuernavaca Mexico and representatives of 4 latin american nations.

The official government representatives, did not agree with Fidel Castro that the debt should be cancelled outright, Neither did Michael Manley, the ~~top~~ opposition leader in Jamaica. But all agreed that international banks must give better terms for paying the debt. ~~xxx~~ The most frequently heard suggestion is that payments on the interest be linked to the income from exports of the nations.

In his final press conference, Fidel Castro insisted that the debt can ~~never~~ be paid mathematically, But he also said that it should be cancelled for moral reasons too because payments on the debt prevent <sup>poor</sup> ~~developing~~ nations from developing.

Dr. Castro said that ~~the big power~~ not only should the western powers cancel the debts but that the ~~socialist~~ soviet union should follow suit. He said that the big powers should reduce their arms expenditures by 12 percent yearly in order to pay the third world debt. By doing so, he said, they would increase the buying power of third world nations and thus <sup>raise</sup> ~~help~~ their own export ~~&~~ income.

(Miscellaneous)

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- Lionel Martin...Havana
- Lionel Martin/Radio Antilles News, Havana.
- Lionel Martin/MacCurrie Nation News, Havana
- Lionel Martin in Havana for commercial radio, Hong Kong
- Lionel Martin <sup>HAVANA</sup> returning you to Radio Trinidad