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1130:games:

havana, july 22, reuter -- sports contingents from 25 nations with a total of 3 000 athletes are expected to participate in the 14th central american and caribbean games which begin in cuba on august 7, jose fernandez, president of the organising committee, told a press conference here.

the most numerous contingents, from between 300 to 500 each, will come from cuba, puerto rico, venezuela and the dominican republic, fernandez, who is the cuban minister of education, said.

he announced that nicaragua +was making a supreme effort+ by sending delegation of 260 athletes. he said that cuba is helping seven nations financially with transportation and housing, but he refused to reveal their names. according to one cuban sports official, nicaragua is among the nations being aided by cuba.

the colombian government declared last year that no national team would participate in the central american and caribbean games if they were held in havana. but fernandez said he expected a colombian contingent of from 20 to 30 athletes +duly authorised by their national sports federation, i presume.+

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fernandez said that cuba was investing 20 million pesos (24.7 million dollars) in preparation of installations and services for the games, five million pesos (6 million dollars) over the projected budget.

he declared that the organising committee +has worked against the clock,+ that the installations +will be an example of simplicity, but they will be ready on time.+

cuba agreed to become the site of the games in march, 1981, after puerto rican governor carlos romero barcelo said his nation could not host the games because of economic problems.

german rieckhoff, president of the central american and caribbean sports organisation (odecabe), who is a leader of amateu sports in puerto rico, visited cuba two weeks ago and lauded the cuban organising committee for its preparations and predicted that the games would be +the best ever.+

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fernandez, who is also a member of the central committee of the cuban communist party, charged that the united states government had refused permission to +cubana+ airlines planes to land in san juan to transport the puerto rican sports' contingent back to cuba.

he also said that the u.s. treasury department had refused to grant permission to puerto rican sports fans to attend the games in cuba. he said the u.s. actions were +a show of the spirit of aggression, blockade and hostility that our nation has been victim of for more than 20 years.+

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