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0835:roa:

1982 UR 388 politics
havana, jun 7, reuter -- raul roa, cuba's former ambassador to the united nations and minister of foreign relations +who used words like bullets+ according to both friends and foes, died here after a prolonged illness.

roa's last official post was that of president of the cuban national assembly.

roa was born in havana on april 18, 1907. by the time he was a twenty-year-old university of havana student, he was an activist in the struggle to topple the cuban dictator gerardo machado. a member of an organisation called +the student left wing,+ he spent two years in prison on the isle of pines.

after taking part in the 1935 general strike, roa was forced to flee to the united states. in new york he participated in the establishment of the +cuban revolutionary anti-imperialist organisation.+

in 1940 roa was appointed professor of the history of social doctrines at the university of havana. he later took post-graduate courses at colombia university and the new york school of social research. in 1945 he received a scholarship from the john simon guggenheim memorial foundation to study the franklin d. roosevelt new deal and its repercussions in latin america.

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1982

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following the cuban revolution in january, 1959, roa was appointed ambassador to the organisation of american states. in june, 1959, he became the cuban foreign minister.

in a recent article, a cuban writer called roa +a high-strung man with a wit like quicksilver, who has been lashing scribes and pharisees, tyrants and mercenaries, worms (gusanos) and imperialists with his sharp tongue for over 50 years.+

the writer said: +his tongue, always ready with a strong retort, became a weapon feared by our enemies, for they could never dodge the tlling blows dealt by this revolutionary who could give them lessons in history while at the same time ridiculing their ostentatious family names or joking about their prejudices.+

when asked in 1977 what his greatest revolutionary joy had been, roa answered: +to have been a contemporary of fidel (castro) and having received his respect.+

roa's literary works include: presidio modelo (model prison), una semilla en un ~~surco~~ de fuego (a seed in a flaming furrow), escaramuza en las visperas (skirmish on the eve) and retorno a la alborada (return to dawn).

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he was a member of the central committee of the cuban communist party since its constitution in 1965.

before being buried at the venerable columbus cemetery in the presence of cuba's top revolutionary leaders, his body lay in state in an open coffin flanked by a military honour guard at the university of havana.

tens of thousands of cubans, among them many of his old comrades-in-arms, filed past the coffin while his wife ada and his son, raul roa kouri, who inherited his father's mantle and cuba's ambassador to the united nations, received condolences.
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0920:correction:

in roa 2 havana, last para, second line, pls change fifth
word to surco rpt surco.

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