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1215:haig:

1982

WR 392

politics

by lionel martin

HAVANA, june 26, reuter : while there has been no official reaction to alexander haig's resignation, one cuban functionary told reuter: +i ~~don't~~ if fidel or our other leaders have shed any tears about it.+

the official said that +the relatively dove-like approach of the carter administration towards cuba was torn to shreds by the hawkish policies of general haig.+

+haig was obsessed by the mere presence of a revolutionary cuba and concentrated the fire of u.s. policy against it,+ he said.

the source, +speaking as an individual+, said he believed that the new secretary of state, george shultz will continue the hardline policy towards cuba. but, he declared, +shultz will most likely shift the emphasis of u.s. policy away from the caribbean and central america and concentrate on other areas which he considers more strategically important to the united states.+
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the cuban official said that shultz +will also be faced with the task of mending the damage done to u.s. prestige in latin america during the malvina islands conflict.+

during the year 1981 secretary of state haig was a frequent target of editorials in the communist party newspaper, granma. the editorials were inevitably in response to statements by haig in which he accused cuba of sending troops and weapons to help revolutionary movements in central america or of being the instigator of +terrorism+.

Last november 9, in an editorial, granma accused haig +of not having stopped telling falsehood since he took office+ and of +seeking to creat condtion for aggression against our country and for military intervention central america.+

a study of granma shows that the direct editorial attacks on haig in granma ceased following his secret conversation with cuban vice-president carlos rafael rodriguez in mexico city on november 23, 1981.

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since then, the main editorial fire has been directed - as -
in a march 5, 1982 article - against +mr reagan and his governing
team. +

Last month, in a speech before the cuban association of small,
private farmers, cuban president fidel castro categorically
rejected a suggestion made first by secretary of state haig and
repeated by president ronald reagan that cuba break its close
ties with the soviet union and join the western community.

==reuter/lem