

MARKET ECONOMY MECHANISMS AND CONSUMERISM
BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, APR 6, REUTER -- CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO ENDED A FIVE DAY CONGRESS OF THE UNION OF YOUNG COMMUNISTS LAST NIGHT WITH A THREE HOUR SPEECH IN WHICH HE REJECTED THE VALIDITY FOR CUBA OF MARKET ECONOMY MECHANISMS NOW BEING USED IN OTHER COMMUNIST BLOC NATIONS, CRITICISED CONSUMERISM AND EXPRESSED HIS +SENSATION OF SECURITY+ THAT THE NEW GENERATION WILL CARRY ON CUBA'S SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.

1)

THE SIXTY YEAR OLD CUBAN LEADER, DRESSED IN HIS FORMAL ARMY UNIFORM, WAS REFERRED TO AS +THE FATHER OF THE NEW CUBAN GENERATION+ BY ROBERTO ROBAINA WHO WAS REELECTED AS HEAD OF THE CUBAN YOUNG COMMUNISTS. THE CUBAN LEADER PARTICIPATED IN THE FIVE DAY CONGRESS, LISTENING TO ANALYTICAL AND CRITICAL STATEMENTS FROM SOME OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS AND CARRYING ON AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THEM.

2)

IN HIS CLOSING SPEECH, CASTRO CHARACTERIZED AS +IDYLIC AND STUPID+ THE BELIEF THAT ECONOMIC MECHANISM BASED ON MONETARY INCENTIVES AND PROFITABILITY OF STATE ENTERPRISES COULD DO THE WORK OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN BUILDING SOCIALISM AND STIMULATING DEVELOPMENT.

3)

+PROFITS, PROFITS, PROFITS,+ HE SAID, +WHAT HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE REVOLUTION.+ HE TOLD OF A STATE ENTERPRISE THAT CHARGED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR BUILDING AN EXERCISE AREA FOR GIRLS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED A GOVERNMENT ARTISTIC AGENCY WHICH SENT GROUPS WHERE THEY COULD MAKE THE MOST PROFIT RATHER THAN WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED BY SOCIETY.

4)

== CASTRO CALLED SOME STATE ENTERPRISES +PARASITIC+ AND DECLARED THAT +IT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED THAT..THE INTEREST OF AN ENTERPRISE ENTER IN CONFLICT WITH THE MOST SACRED INTERESTS OF SOCIETY.+

5)

==MORE/LEM

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MIS: FIDEL CASTRO 2HAVANA

1 SPEAKING WITHOUT NOTES CASTRO TOLD THE YOUTH CONGRESS
2 DELEGATES THAT THE OBSESSION WITH CONSUMERISM +IS A CAPITALIST
3 INVENTION.+ +IF HUMAN SOCIETIES SUCCEED IN SATISFYING
4 THEIR RATIONAL NEEDS FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION,
5 HOUSING, RECREATION AND TRANSPORT, IT WILL HAVE ACHIEVED
6 HISTORICAL OBJECTIVES.+ CASTRO SAID.

7 THE GREY BEARDED LEADER SAID THAT THERE WILL NEVER BE AN
8 UNLIMITED ABUNDANCE OF MATERIAL GOODS. +PROBLEMS ARISE
9 LIKE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION, THE EXHAUSTION OF NON-
10 RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOTH MINERAL AND ENERGETIC.+ HE SAID AND
11 ADDED, +IMAGINE CHINA AND INDIA WITH A CAR FOR EVERY FAMILY:
12 HOW LONG WOULD THE PETROLEUM LAST?+.

13 CASTRO AFFIRMED THAT ADVANCED NATIONS CANNOT BE MODELS FOR
THIRD WORLD NATIONS.

14 THE STILL VIGOROUS CUBAN LEADER SAID THAT HE WAS HIGHLY
15 IMPRESSED WITH THE POLITICAL AND ANALYTICAL LEVEL OF THE
16 REPRESENTATIVES TO THE YOUNG COMMUNIST CONGRESS. HE SAID HE AND
17 OTHER LEADERS OF THE SAME GENERATION IN CUBA FEEL +A SENSATION
18 OF SECURITY THAT THIS GENERATION WHICH IS THE FRUIT OF THE
19 REVOLUTION IS MORE PROFOUNDLY REVOLUTIONARY THAN THE GENERATION
20 THAT MADE THE REVOLUTION, THAT ITS IDEAS ARE MORE ADVANCED AND
21 PROFUND.+ HE SAID THAT THE NEW GENERATION +IS A SOLID GUARANTEE
22 OF THE CONTINUITY OF THE REVOLUTION IN OUR COUNTRY.+

23 CASTRO WARNED AGAINST THE CULT OF THE PERSONALITY. +ONE MUST
24 FIGHT AGAINST THE TENDENCY OF MEN TO FEEL TOO IMPORTANT, TO FEEL
25 INDISPENSABLE AND UNSUBSTITUTABLE.+ HE SAID THAT AT THE SAME TIME
26 +THE PROLONGED PERIOD OF A REVOLUTIONARY GENERATION HAS GIVEN
27 IT THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACTING, ERRING, RECTIFYING AND LEARNING.

28 CASTRO DECLARED THAT +THINKING WITH EQUANIMITY, SERENITY
29 AND OBJECTIVITY, THE ROLE OF MEN IN THIS HISTORIC PROCESS
30 IS LIMITED IN SPACE AND TIME.+

==REUTERS/IFM

Cuba: Fidel Castro at Young Communists Congress Speech
on Market Economy and Consumerism

who had not committed crimes in the United States spent more than a month in quarantine upon their return to Cuba where they were tested for AIDs and other diseases. Then they were given a valise, clothing, one hundred pesos (about 125 dollars) and were 000000set free. They said the government helped them to get jobs and said they had not been discriminated against for their decision to go to the United States during the Mariel boatlift.

For the most part those who had spent time in Atlanta and had been sent back to Cuba were loser types with scant education and police records of petty and major crimes. Typical was Mario Gerante Sangroniz

a 35 year old black man who said "If I could speak to the rioters I would tell them to come home because you don't have to fear reprisal.

Gerante had been convicted of attempted murder when he was seventeen years of age. he was a fugitive for more than a decade and had served one year of a four year sentence when he became a "Marielito". He was taken into custody immediately upon arriving in the United States and spent five years in jail, most of it at Atlanta penitentiary.

He said he had been pushed around by law enforcement officials in the United States and otherwise mistreated and that he was glad to be back in Cuba. He is now a parking lot attendant in Havana. His wife has cancer of the pancreas and his major complaint is housing - the roof of the old house he lives in is shored up by four by fours and he is afraid it will cave in on them.

Another Cuban who spent time in Atlanta before being deported back to Cuba. 25 year old Damian Martinez said that he expected to be thrown into jail upon his return but that he has been well treated. He is now a sheet metal worker helper and hopes to get journeyman's status one day.

Israel Piedra, 31, was a construction worker before he left for the U.S. in 1980. He said that he had been caught with a cache of several tonnes of marijuana in Florida and has been sent to Atlanta Penitentiary. Back in Cuba he spent time in jail and is now the foreman on a construction project in Havana.

According to Alarcon three quarters of the 201 men who were deported to Cuba in the Spring of 1985 were freed after their quarantine period. But others were sent back to jail.

Journalists were taken to Combinado del Este prison where they interviewed Cubans who had been in Atlanta and then deported to Cuba.

Eugenio Alaye 41 had served two years of a ten year sentence for armed robbery before arriving in the United States. He repeated the crime in Los Angeles and when he completed his sentence there he was sent to Atlanta and then deported to Cuba. He now has five more months to serve and said candidly* "I didn't want to come back. I have brothers in Detroit."

Manuel de Jesus Gomez, 28, is a loser. He has teardrops tatued down his cheeks and a mercurochrome color cross tatued

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just below his Adams Apple. He talks tough, like a Cuban Jimmy Cagney. He was taken from jail in Cuba where he was serving time for hitting somebody over the head with a crow bar and allowed to go off on the boatlift to Miami in 1980. Unaware of his record, U.S. authorities did not detain him immediately as an undesirable alien. He too went to California, was arrested for armed robbery and sent to Atlanta. He says upon his return to Cuba he was freed but was later picked up, according to his version, for "dangerousness". He complained of the food at the Combinado del Este - spaghetti and marmalade two times a week, arroz con pollo - rice with chicken "but you can hardly make out the chicken" most of the time.

"I found atlanta good. I like the United States. If I get out I'll go there again if I can."

PLAYBACK

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