

*Cuba Announces
Building Two Nuclear
Power Stations*

1984

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1120:Latin american markets (attention philip marvin)

by lionel martin (havana)

oct 30-- cuba took the occasion of the 39th top-level meeting of comecon in havana to announce that it was planning to build two nuclear power stations in addition to that under construction in central cuba. the reasons cuba gives is that it is an energy-deprived nation.

cuba has no coal, no rampaging rivers, little petroleum as yet discovered and limited forest resources. this is the harsh reality cuba faces as it tries to develop and diversify its economy.

fuel consumption increased as the nation's electric power industry and transport grew to meet the requirements of a growing economy. total power out in 1958, the last pre-revolutionary year was about 2 million kilowatt hours while today it has risen to more than 11 million.

prior to the revolution, cuba depended on western oil companies such as standard oil and shell for its oil and for its refining which took place in two oil refineries on the island. since the u.s. economic embargo was declared in 1960 castro's island has depended almost entirely on the soviet union for its crude. on the average, a soviet tanker has arrived in cuba every 54 hours for the past 25 years.

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1140:latin american markets -financial times (attn philip marvin)
cuba imports between 10 and 12 million tonnes of oil a year.
if it had to pay for it at the world market price, it would take
every cent it earns from its sugar exports. but cuba, it is
understood, pays the soviet union about half the world price,
a fact, among others, that has allowed it to develop its economy
at an annual 5 percent rate of growth.

moveover, cuba has benefited through a generous windfall
arrangement which gives it the right to sell, on the free market,
all the oil within its agreed-to quota that is saved by oil
economising measures. to understand the importance of this
to the cuban economy it is sufficient to point out that in 1983
the sale of +surplus oil+ brought cuba about 600 million dollars
in hard currency, twice the amount derived from crude sugar sales.

for almost four decades, beginning before the revolution,
geologists have been searching for large-scale oil deposits in cuba.
cuban leaders dream of a rich strike and many experts believe that
within its depths cuba holds great oil riches. but so far cuba has
only been able to produce 700,000 tonnes of oil annually,
up from the 113,000 tonnes produced in 1967. cuba recently
announced that promising signs might raise oil production to
2 million tonnes a year by the end of the century.

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1150: Latin American markets-financial times (attn philip marvin)
with soviet help, cuba is turning to nuclear energy for a
part of its power production. one nuclear power station is well
under way in central cuba. another will be built in the fast
growing industrial-mining area of north eastern cuba and still
another in western cuba. according to fidel castro, one
nuclear plant, when its four reactors are in operation, will
save cuba some 2.5 million tonnes of petroleum a year.

Large-scale oil imports will continue however as the
nation's economy grows. for that reason a new
refinery, cuba's third, with a refining capacity of 6,000,000
tonnes a year is under construction no far from the site of
cuba's first nuclear energy plant.

cuba does have one unusual source of practical fuel - bagasse -
the fibrous material left after sugar is squeezed out of cane.
today most of cuba's 153 sugar mills operate entirely with bagasse
fuel saving approximately 2 million tonnes of petroleum yearly.

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ceso es todo, es urgente gracias

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