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politics

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1420:weapons: 1987

havana, djan 28, reuter -- cuban vice -president carlos rafael rodriguez, speaking before a meeting of comecon here, declared that the threatening policy of the reagan administration has forced his nation to build up its people's militia and +equip these new defense forces with modern weapons in a short period of time.+

rodriguez said that because of the u.s. threat +cuba has been forced in past months to divide its attention - devoted preferably to the great tasks of economic and social development - to the urgent requirements of national defense before what appeared to be only a few weeks ago an imminent american aggression.+

the cuban leader, a member of the communist party politburo, said that the rapid arming of the people's militia with up-to-date weapons +showed once more the exemplary socialist solidarity.+

in recent days, president reagan and other u.s. government spokesmen have charged that cuban received three times more weapons from the soviet union than in previous years.

rodriguez characterise u.s. policy as +foolish+ and affirmed that it has +motivated preoccupations and rejections from allies of the united states...+.

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