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Cuba's failure to achieve ten million ton production of ^{sugar} crude during the 1970 harvest has been a blow not only to the Cuban people but also to the friends of Cuba throughout the world. It was Fidel Castro himself who told the world that the goal ^{is} point of honor and that revolutionary progress could be measured by the achievement.

What is clear then is that the Cuban revolution still has a lot of problems to solve, especially in the economic field.

The reasons for the failure were explained in detail in a speech of Castros that occupied six and a half pages of *Grandma*. ^{They} boil down to the fact that the leadership did not estimate correctly the difficulties that would arise from the large-scale instalation of new machinery and the use of inexperienced personnel in the sugar mills. The planting of the cane, its care, its cutting and its transportation to the mill were emphasized and in these fields, although ~~serious~~ problems arose, the government was prepared to win the battle. But the problem came from ^{together with} where it was not expected - bugs in the machines and men and women without sufficient experience to run them.

Castro took the blame for the disappointment squarely on his own shoulders. The people had come through with flying colors - selflessly and heroically.

In the two weeks since the announcement the Cuban people have shaken off the blow and have gone on to "transform the setback into victory". The Party and government leadership have received a resounding vote of confidence. Tens of thousands of letters and telegrams sent by young and old individuals and by brigades and work centers have poured into the newspaper offices and radio stations. Foreign observers have noted a peculiar phenomena: that since the announcement there seems to be more unity and determination on the part of the people. ~~This phenomena is not idle speculation or wishful thinking.~~ Cubans themselves have noticed it and they tell a thousand stories to prove it.

The vital question is perhaps, when is a defeat not a defeat. ~~This seems to be the case with the present~~ The Cuban answer is when it strengthens rather than weakens. It is possible that friends of Cuba in foreign countries have more ^{difficulty in} problems accepting the failure than the Cubans themselves. This is because they have to confront the ~~xxx~~ jibes of the enemies ~~xxx~~ of the Revolution and of its leadership ~~directly~~ daily. The sense of community and

mutual support which the Cubans enjoy is absent for those who live un-revolutionized countries. Foreign friends of Cuba began to think of the ten million tons as a crucial symbol, almost as a thing in itself. For the Cubans, as important as the ten million was, there were all the other aspects of life, work and progress that could serve as shock absorbers and even launching pads for future conquests.

There will be those who analyze the Cuban revolution in terms of the ten millions tons and nothing else. Some will say that the economic policy of the government is a total failure. Others will draw the conclusion that the leadership is autocratic and arbitrary and that was the reason for the setback. Still others, the counterrevolutionaries will predict a chain reaction breakdown of morale.

None of these contentions ~~exist~~ are valid. The ten million is only a part of a much bigger revolution. The economic policy is far from a failure. ~~Although~~ Although leadership did fail, its style of work shows that it is not autocratic or arbitrary. As to a breakdown in morale, as mentioned before, just the opposite has happened.

Answer
The organs of propaganda often measure success in absolute terms. This is part of the ^{bedrock} pragmatism of our country. "a man makes it or he doesn't". It is wrong

and chauvinistic to use this kind of yard stick in judging countries of the Third World, like Cuba. ~~Imperialism~~ Imperialism, past and present is the major cause of Cuba's woes. The economy was distorted, the people lacked educational opportunity and only the privileged enjoyed ~~the advantages~~ ~~existing~~ power and culture. Today Cuba is fighting its way out of underdevelopment under the difficult conditions of blockade, sabotage, technician ^{deficiency} ~~shortage~~, ~~and economic~~ shortage of hard currency etc. etc. When ^{most} ~~most~~ of the third world ~~still~~ is still ~~immersed~~ sunk in the morass of dependency and poverty, the audacious Cuban example has to be honored. ~~The Cuban example~~ ^{reason for} The ~~cause~~ ^{reason for} or not achieving the ~~ten~~ million goal was underdevelopment, ~~but~~ but not stagnant underdevelopment. ~~For~~ The shortcomings in the harvest reflect in Cuba problems of development breaked by the ~~ix~~ ^{weighty} ~~and~~ inherited backwardness. And it should never be forgotten that ~~the~~ United States imperialism is in large measure responsible for that backwardness. ^{Not} ~~and~~ that today in the world ~~ix~~ this same United States imperialism is responsible for the oppression and death of millions who have not even had the opportunity to do what Cuba is doing.

Americans, who live in the heartland of imperialism,

increment in skilled manpower. Tens of thousands of young people gained valuable on the job experience this year, ~~which~~, like the machinery itself, will ~~bring~~ benefit production in future years.

Still a ~~fourth~~ fourth consequence has been the positive experience gained in handling the complexities of a planned economy. This harvest ~~year~~ which scored a mark of about 90% of its goal, taught Cubans a lot about economic logistics and the use of manpower and machinery. Workers and University students learned through practice in a way that ~~the~~ can be said to be characteristic of the Cuban revolution.

A fifth consequence has been the lessons learned by the leadership of the country. Leadership admits that it is to blame for the failure. This admission has been linked with a pledge to study the errors and to correct them.

Perhaps this last factor, ~~the most important~~ more than any of the others is the reason the Cubans have given ~~this~~ vote of confidence to their leadership. ~~Even in the short history of socialism, Cubans say, one would be hard put to find a leadership that doesn't pass the buck but rather~~

says "we misjudged all these gods on the experience of people. There is something heartening in this ~~expression of~~ ^{intensity of} ~~the leadership~~ socialist democracy that the friends of Cuba, who came and

helped on ^{at home} stayed and hoped, will recognize.