

1984

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This is Lionel Martin in Havana..for CBC news the service message:

The 36th ~~meeting~~ top level meeting of the communist bloc economic cooperation organisation, comecon, got under way in Havana this morning. here is the item.

The ~~meeting~~ five year old palace of conventions here in Havana was filled with ~~dignitaries~~ dignitaries from the communist world. Among them <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ Nikolai Tikhonov, president of the council of ministers of the USSR, top leaders from eastern European nations and from the other three members of comecon, Cuba, Vietnam and Mongolia. There were also observers from Mexico, the non aligned movement, Yugoslavia and the Latin American Economic Council of the United Nations.

Enter voice of Fidel Castro sent separately....

Cuban president Fidel Castro inaugurated the 3 day meeting. Although ~~the~~ comecon is essentially an economic organisation, the Cuban leader took the opportunity to make some political points.

Dr Castro said that Cuba wants peace, not only in central America but in the world. He said his nation ~~favours~~ favors solutions to the problems with the United States based on mutual respect and added that those problems had been aggravated by the policy of Reagan administration.

The Cuban leader, ~~in~~ wearing his ~~dress~~ dress ~~military~~ uniform said he is confident that peace is possible and that, I quote, the people of the world will stop the hands of those who proclaim as policy military supremacy and aggression."

Mr. Castro also declared that Cuba backs ~~the~~ the Contadora group initiatives for central America and was ready to take action to make them effective. Then he challenged the United States to do the same.

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The comecon meeting will now discuss its internal economic problems such as the energy crisis and will define the policy of cooperation between its members for the future.

for cbc ~~radio~~ news this is lionel martin in havana

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