

RB-384

This is lionel martin in havana. ~~thumb~~ for thursday use..the service message: For the first time in ever twenty years, a top U.S. diplomat spoke in Havana ~~during~~ ~~at a~~ ~~cuban~~ government sponsored foreign.

Here is the story:

The U.S. diplomat was john ferch, head of the united states diplomatic mission in havana and he spoke at a cuban sponsored forum. ~~called~~ called: the u.s. in the eighties

~~Most of the listeners at the Palace of conventions here in havana~~

Most of the listeners at the Palace of conventions here in havana were cuban academics and officials but there were also professors from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and the United States.

Mr. Ferch's speech, which was a strong attack on Cuba ~~policy~~ foreign policy ran against the tide of the three day forum. Almost all the rest of the papers read at the conference were highly critical of U.S. economic and ~~political~~ political policy in the ~~xx~~ hemisphere.

The U.S. diplomat ~~ended his speech by saying:~~ SAIP

~~When Mr. Ferch finished, a Cuban government speaker debated~~

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When Mr. Ferch finished, a Cuban government speaker debated ~~every~~ every point made by the U.S. diplomat in a paper called: The Seven Lies of the Reagan administration. The Cuban position was that the United States has sought domination in Latin America for almost a century and that it refuses to accept the need for deep social changes on the continent.

~~One latin american professor at the conference commented: It is~~

One latin american professor at the conference commented: It is ironic, that here ~~the~~ the U.S. representative is discussing US-Cuban policy at a conference in Havana, but the U.S. government says it has nothing to negotiate about with Cuba until Cuba ~~changes~~ changes its foreign policy.

For cbc news this is lionel martin in havana

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