

WR
537

This is Lionel Martin in Havana...the service message: Cuban president Fidel Castro laid to rest rumours that he is deathly sick by ~~speech~~ giving a more than eight hour report to the Third Congress of the Cuban congress party here. Castro also had things to say about sports. Here is the item.

3 2 1 The Cuban president ~~said~~ announced that if the ~~the~~ next Olympic games are not held in both south and north korea, instead of only ~~in~~ south korea as now planned, Cuba would not attend. Cuba is an ally of north korea and ^{CASTRO} said it was a matter of ~~the~~ principal. The 59 ~~year~~ year old cuban leader said ~~it was worth~~ living up to one's principals is worth more than all the ~~gold~~ the olympic gold medals and all the gold in the world.

The aging Cuban leader had some harsh things to say about the present Olympic movement. He said the ~~movement~~ ^{olympic games} had become ~~a~~ ^{so} commercialized that ~~it was~~ they were really a big party for rich nations. He called on the have-not nations to unite in the fight against, in his words, the privileged maffia in the olympic movement in order to ~~make~~ the games once again a vehicle for peace and friendship.

Fidel Castro also said that next summers pan american games should have really been held in Havana but that Indianapolis in the United States had taken them away by offering to shell out 25 million dollars which castro said was nothing but a bribe.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana.

474 new.
talked to Judy

On Fidel Castro's comments on
His Health and on the Olympic
Games in Seoul in 1986

Aus B.C
Feb 5, 1986

1st item for
ABC (AUST)

has also hurt Australia -- there has been a big drop in hard currency earnings. Cuba is far from a consumer society and there are many products that are not available at the stores here. But, as even western diplomats admit, nobody starves in Cuba and there are no beggars. This is because there is government controlled rationing of basic food products which are sold at low prices. There is a big housing shortage in Cuba which means married couples often have to live with their parents. But rents are only ten percent or less of the family's salary.

7 The big, obvious achievements of the Cuban revolution are in the field of education and public health. A ninth grade education is now compulsory and Cuba is now graduating 3000 doctors a year.

52 For the average Cuba is a far away, exotic place - probably the same way Australians feel about Cuba.

But they do know a few things about Australia. For instance, while they don't like Rambo they learned to love Crocodile Dundee who they have seen in movie houses and on television here.

Also, one of Cuba's 154 sugar mills is called Central Australia, that is, the Australia Sugar Mill. I've been trying to find out just why but nobody seems to know. In fact, some of the people living near the sugar mill aren't even clear where Australia is, or for that matter, what it is.

Another, somewhat bizaar link between Cuba and Australia is in the person of the Australian writer Harry Reade. Harry came to revolutionary Cuba twenty seven years and stayed for about eight years. In those days he was a cartoonist and the persons who now make Cuba's very good animated cartoons still think of the big Australian as their original teacher.

Harry Reade has one other distinction that should make any red blood Australian proud. He introduced the word "bloody" into the Cuban language which is Spanish. For instance, por favor means Please in Spanish - and because of Harry Reade every once in a while one can hear a Cuba saying Por Bloody Favor.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for Correspondents Report

June 26, 1988 (Cont)

Australia BE