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Fidel and Angela speak
on the Anniversary of the
Committee for Defense of the
Revolution

By Lionel Martin
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Havana (FL).- It was a historic night. For the first time since the victory of the Cuban revolution, a representative of the American people spoke to a mass rally in Havana's Revolution Square. What is more, that representative, Angela Davis, shared the speakers platform with the leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro.

Angela's vibrant voice rang out across the Square to at least a half million people assembled there and millions more who watched on television. She referred to the people of Cuba as "brothers and sisters" and declared that she feels especially close in spirit to them. "This revolution," she said, "is our great inspiration." She said she brought greetings to the Cuban people not from the government of my country but "from the other America, the other United States."

Angela spoke about her visit to the socialist countries of Europe and said: "Without the unity of the socialist community of nations and the leadership of the Soviet Union, we would not have been able to forge the broad international movement that won my liberty." She added: "It was no accident that we began our tour with a visit to the land of Lenin."

To the accompaniment of enthusiastic cheering, Fidel Castro presented Angela with a membership card of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution whose twelfth anniversary was being celebrated. Then he placed a hard-hat, symbol of Cuban construction, over her natural.

In his speech Castro responded to Angela's expressions of solidarity by declaring that the Cuban people also have a deep and lasting sense of solidarity toward all Americans who fight for justice and progress.

The Cuban leader reminded the people of the Haymarket and Sacco and Vanzetti frameups and said that the American establishment wanted to convict Angela Davis to intimidate the American fighters for peace and progress. He said that they had not counted on the powerful reaction of the American people who are tired of war and racism or with the peoples of the socialist camp and the rest of the progressive people of the world.

Castro recalled how the case of Angela Davis became a Cuban cause celebre and how old and young rallied on her behalf.

He said that the Cuban people would continue their activities of solidarity with American progressives and mentioned that Cuba would take an active part in bringing the case of Billy Bean Smith before the entire world.

Fidel said that the freeing of Angela Davis was the result of a great international movement that prevented the US government from venting its imperialist fury upon her because she is a communist and a black. He then affirmed that he was deeply impressed by her impetuosity to return to the United States to continue the fight against the war and for solidarity with Vietnam and Cuba.

Castro said that he was confident that one day there would be a socialist United States. "Some say this is utopian", he said, "but they would have said that fifteen years ago if someone had spoken about the imminence of a Cuban socialist state. He declared that if Cuba could make a socialist revolution just ninety miles away from the United States, then some day the United States could, in turn, make a revolution ninety miles away from Socialist Cuba.

Fidel on the CDR's

By Edel Suarez Venegas

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Havana, (PL).- The revolutionary consciousness and the political level of Cuban revolutionaries are at an all-time high, said Fidel Castro before a multitude of more than a half million persons in the Plaza of the Revolution in this capital.

The leader of the Cuban revolution, in excellent spirits, spoke for one hour and forty-five minutes at a mass rally celebrating the twelfth anniversary of the founding of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR).

The Prime Minister pointed out the fact that seventy percent of the country's adult population are CDR members, proof that the ideas of the revolution have taken root in the hearts of the people.

The CDR has gone beyond the functions of vigilance for which it was originally founded, since the revolution's advance has reduced the counterrevolution to a minimum, he added. However, Castro affirmed that the four million 236 thousand members of the CDR would not decrease their vigilance, in spite of the small numbers of the revolution's internal enemies. The Prime Minister spoke highly of the different tasks now being carried on by the CDR.

Fidel Castro stressed the eight million hours of volunteer work in construction contributed this year by the members of this organization, Cuba's largest.

He also mentioned the more than 150 thousand blood donations made by CDR members this year, which, Fidel said, are more important from a moral viewpoint than from the standpoint of numbers. He also spoke of other activities carried on by the CDR during the past twelve months.