

the meaning of fidel castro's trip  
by lienel martin (prensa latina feature)  
havana, july 5

prime minister fidel castro was given a tumultuous welcome by the cuban people early this morning. he was returning from a two month trip that took him to guinea and algeria in africa and to hungary, bulgaria, rumania, poland, the german democratic, czechoslovakia and the soviet union.

castro visited farms and factories, he made dozens of speeches and was awarded with the highest honors of each nation that he visited. he wore the traditional white garb of the guinean people and a polish miner's outfit. he mixed with populace everywhere he went.

the people to people element of his trip coincided with the party to party and government to government aspects. after most of the visits joint communiques were issued which gave new insights into cuban foreign policy and the nature of cuba's relations with the socialist countries. for the first time, cuba publically announced its position on problems of european security. it backed up the proposal of the socialist states for a european conference on security and cooperation. it welcomed the treaties between the urss and the german federal republic and between poland and the g.f.r. it advocated international recognition for the gdr and the simultaneous entry into the united nations of both german states. cuba put her stamp of approval on a world disarmament conference with the participation of all the nations of the world.

it was commonly said during his trip that castro was carrying two flags, that of cuba and that of vietnam. he constantly spoke of vietnam. in the joint communiques that were issued, the resolute support for the cause of vietnam was underscored.

the joint communiques also supported the liberation struggles in the world. in latin america they singled out the popular struggle in chile and the nationalist-oriented struggles in peru, and also that of panama.

havana... fidel returns... (two)

during the trip, fidel castro reaffirmed cuba's solidarity with the socialist camp and, in the first place, with the soviet union.

on the eve of castro's visit to the soviet union, articles appeared in western european and american newspapers speaking about unrest in cuba, and cuba's +staunch+ relations with soviet union. in the united states a special study on +soviet naval power in the caribbean+ was published. some papers of the ~~and west~~ left in have either totally ignored castro's significant trip to eastern europe or distorted its meaning. this is not a new phenomenon: some leftists cannot forgive cuba for having strengthened her fraternal ties with the soviet union.

from the cuban point of view, the soviet union has been there when most needed, and this is for them the essence of international proletarian solidarity. while in chile, fidel castro said that two factors had been responsible for the consolidation of the cuban revolution: the audacity of the cuban people and the audacity of the soviet union in supporting cuba when the balance of forces in this part of the world was so weighted in favor of united states policy.

/more/

SOVIET

havana.. fidel returns.. three and final.

the soviet union has supplied oil (a tanker has arrived every three days since 1960)- they have supplied the most modern weapons free of charge, they have given long-term loans, technical aid, guarantees for future aid. they have supported cuba's struggle against the american blockade. they have backed the struggle of the vietnamese people.

many cuban revolutionaries are convinced that the major hope of the united states in regard to weakening cuba has been that of dividing cuba and the soviet union, standing alone, cuba would stand little chance.

in the cuban-soviet communique published in granma this morning the cubans declared that they have a +high appreciation for the class oriented, internationalist policies of the soviet government that combine the struggle for the consolidation of the principles of peaceful coexistence with a firm rejoinder to the aggressive designs of imperialism and reaction..+

the cubans also affirm that +the existence of the soviet union, its power and its active foreign policy play a relevant role in the peoples liberation struggles.+  
end/jt/

western union  
prela central/2