

# Prensa Latina

FA-45



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JOSE MARTI AIRPORT CALLING: CLEARANCE TO LAND

by Lionel Martin (Prensa Latina Feature)

Every week dozens of regularly scheduled planes land at the Jose Marti airport outside of Havana. They come from Moscow, Prague, Spain, Mexico and Chile. There are irregular ~~fix~~ arrivals also: high personages in special flights and hijacked planes, usually coming in from the North.

Thousands of visitors come to Cuba each year. There are Canadian and French tourists and a steady stream of sightseers from the socialist countries of Europe. Professors, government officials, voluntary work ~~brigades~~ <sup>brigaders</sup>, contracted foreign technicians, revolutionaries and journalists fill ~~the~~ ~~xxxx~~ Havana's Big Three: the Havana Libre (formerly the Hilton), the Capri and the Nacional.

Many of the visitors come and go almost unnoticed by the Cuban public. Others, a small ~~xx~~ minority receive publicity because of their ~~ixixixixixix~~ importance of their visits. Who are the visitors that have made news this year?

Two western European parliamentary delegations have visited Cuba this year. One, from Norway, was headed by that country's Parliamentary vice-president Hans Rossbach. The other, a French delegation composed of seven members was headed by Alain Peyrefitte.

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jose marti airport.....two

Two high United Nations officials dropped in on Cuba since January. First came Maurice Strong, the ~~UN~~<sup>UNDER-</sup> ~~secretary~~<sup>-GENERAL</sup> of the U.N and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Protection of the Human Environment. The other was Gabriel Valdes, deputy director of the UN Program for Development.

Africa has sent its share of visitors in the wake of Fidel Castro's visit to that continent. Three foreign ministers: John W. Malecela of Tanzania, Omar Arteh Ghalls of Somalia and James Pratt of Sierra Leone came to Cuba, toured it and met with its top leaders. Cuba also received the National Folklore Dance and Song group of Guinea and the African singer, Miriam Makeba who was awarded Cuban citizenship.

Cuba's english-speaking Caribbean neighbors, ~~xxxx~~ Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad-Tobago established diplomatic relations with Cuba this year. Jamaica's Minister of State, Dudley Thompson and the Barbados Vice-Minister<sup>x</sup> of Foreign Affairs, Cecil B. Williams made official state visits to Cuba. Also, Commodore Cameron Rusby, the chief of Britain's Caribbean fleet payed a courtesy call to Cuba in October.

From the Far East came a Japanese & sugar-industry delegation, the first one to receive ~~xx~~ widespread publicity here. Cuba is selling Japan about one million tons of suger a year and Japanese ~~xxx~~ products is becoming more evident in Cuba with each passing month.

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Jose marti airport...three

The list of Latin American visitors indicates growing ties ~~with Chile, Peru and Panama~~ with Chile, Peru and Panama. Chile established relations with Cuba last year; Peru, this year.

From Chile came an Armed Forces delegation in January, a commercial delegation in April, a visit from the Minister of Education in July and a ~~miners' delegation~~ miners' ~~delegation~~ delegation in October.

From Peru came a high-level ~~delegation~~ delegation headed by General Graham Hurtado, special advisor to President Velasco Alvarada.

A joint-communique between Cuba and Peru was signed which establishes the basis for close cooperation ~~between~~ between the two countries.

Although not formalized by diplomatic relations, there has been this year a notable improvement in relations between Panama and Cuba. Recently the rector of the University of Panama ~~led~~ led a ~~delegation~~ delegation of professors and students in a visit to Cuba.

From Canada, for the first time, came an official Canadian University ~~delegation~~ delegation in October. The purpose of the trip was to nail down plans for Canadian aid to ~~the~~ the University of Havana engineering school.

The Venceremos Brigade, composed of American and Puerto Rican youth sent its fifth contingent to Cuba this year. This meant that 1500 members of this Brigade have come to Cuba ~~without~~ without State Department ~~permission~~ permission) since ~~its~~ its contingent number one arrived in Cuba in 1970.

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Two important Middle Eastern delegations have ~~just~~ paid official visits to Cuba: one from the ~~Iraq~~ ruling ~~KARBAAS~~ party of Siria and the other, headed by Fatma Ismail from Yemen del Sur.

There have been many visitors from the socialist bloc. From the Soviet Union the Minister of Education, Mijail Prokofiev in March, the Minister of Culture Ekaterina Furtseva and the Commerce Minister, Nicolas Talyzin. Cuba also had as its guest the Russian astronaut, Boris Volinov and the ~~Kux~~ Kirov Ballet company of Leningrad. The Germany Democratic Republic's Foreign Minister, Otto Winzer and the Minister of its Chemical Industry, Gunther Wyschofsky made the journey to Cuba. From Czechoslovakia came their Foreign Minister, Bohusla Chroupek and their Vice-Premier. From Bulgaria the Vice-Minister of Defense, SLAVCHO TRANKI and Vice-President of the Council of Minister, Nako Dskov; from Rumania, the Minister of Education, Mircea Malita; from Mongolia, ~~the President of the Council of Ministers, Yu Tsedenbal and the Minister of Defense,~~ BATYN DORZ ~~THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, YU TSENBAL.~~ ~~is expected~~ in March and the Minister of Education, Kim Du Suk, in August.

The visit of two women made the greatest impact on the Cuban public this year, that of Nguyen Thi Binh, the foreign minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam IN JULY AND THAT OF ANGELA DAVIS IN OCTOBER

EXPECTED BY ANY MEANS?