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POL:PERU-CUBA

PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER ATTACK IMF, RAISES CUBAN HELP:

HAVANA, DEC 21, REUTER --THE PRIME MINISTER OF PERU, LUIS ALVA CASTRO, WHO ARRIVED IN HAVANA LAST FRIDAY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT, STRONGLY ATTACKED THE POLICIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AS "A FOREIGN INSTITUTION THAT TAKES UPON ITSELF IN THE NAME OF IMPERIALISM THE MISSION OF BEING THE POLICEMAN OF OUR ECONOMY."

REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT PERU HAS BEEN DECLARED INELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER LOANS, ALVA CASTRO SAID, "THE ONLY INELIGIBLE THAT EXISTS ON THIS CONTINENT IS THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND."

DURING HIS VISIT TO CUBA WHICH BEGINS TODAY, ALVA CASTRO DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION WITH HIGH CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IT COULD NOT BE ASCERTAINED IF HE MET WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

THE PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER ALSO PRESENTED ONE OF HIS NATION'S MOST ILLUSTRIOUS MEDALS, "LA ORDEN L SOL DE PERU" TO THE CUBAN MINISTER OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY, JORGE FERNANDEZ CUERO -- FOR CUBA COLLABORATION WITH THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT.

IN 1986, TWO CUBAN FISHING BOATS DONATED 35,000 TONNES OF FISH TO THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE CAUGHT OFF THE PERUVIAN COAST. THE FISH WERE SOLD TO THE PERUVIAN PUBLIC AT LOW PRICES. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ALSO PROVIDED TECHNICAL HELP TO THE PERUVIAN FISHING INDUSTRY. IN ALL, MORE THAN 300 CUBAN FISHERMEN AND FISHING EXPERTS WORKED IN PERU DURING THE YEAR.

THE PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT CUBA HAD PROVIDED HELP "WHEN WE NEEDED IT MOST."

--REUTER/LEM

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