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MIS: BRAZILIAN MOVIE MAKER

PRESIDENT CASTRO GIVES MEDAL TO BRAZILIAN MOVIE MAKER:

HAVANA, DEC 18, REUTER -- NELSON PEREIRA DOS SANTOS, THE DISTINGUISHED BRAZILIAN MOVIE MAKER RECEIVED CUBA'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR CULTURAL MERIT FROM CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO IN A CEREMONY AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE HERE.

CASTRO PINNED THE FELIX VARELA MEDAL FIRST CLASS (ORDEN FELIX VARELA DE PRIMERA CLASE) ON PEREIRA DOS SANTOS LAPEL AND THEN EMBRACED HIM.

THE BRAZILIAN MOVIE MAKER SAID THAT THE AWARD "IS A GESTURE TOWARD ENCOURAGING THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA." HE SAID THAT THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA WAS "IDENTIFIED WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, DIGNITY AND THE AFFIRMATION OF OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY."

THE AWARD WAS GIVEN SHORTLY BEFORE CASTRO OFFERED A RECEPTION FOR MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND LATIN AMERICAN MOVIE MAKERS, CRITICS AND VISITORS WHO ATTENDED THE EIGHTH FESTIVAL OF NEW LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA WHICH ENDED YESTERDAY.

--REUTER/LEN

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