

UU LEN NYK BAS
NIS: DROUGHT

SHORTFALL IN RAINFALL IN 1986 WORSENS CUBA'S WATER CRISIS:
HAVANA, DEC 16, REUTER - CUBA'S ALREADY CRITICAL WATER SHORTAGE
FOR HUMAN, INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL USES, CONTINUED TO WORSEN
WITH RAINFALL THIS YEAR BEING THE LEAST IN THE PAST TWENTY SEVEN
YEARS AND WITH 1986 BEING THE SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR OF BELOW
AVERAGE RAINFALL, ACCORDING TO CUBAN OFFICIALS.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT CUBA LOST 1370 MM OF WATER SINCE
1983 DUE TO BELOW AVERAGE RAINFALL, EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF RAIN
THAT FALLS ON THE ISLAND IN AN AVERAGE YEAR.

RESERVOIRS AND UNDERGROUND WATER TABLES HAVE FALLEN TO
CRITICAL LEVELS IN MOST OF THE COUNTRY WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF
SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND GRANMA PROVINCES NEAR THE SIERRA MAESTRA
MOUNTAIN RANGE IN EASTERN CUBA.

WITH CUBA IN ITS ANNUAL DRY SEASON, CUBAN RESERVOIRS'
HOLD AN AVERAGE OF ONLY FORTY THREE PERCENT OF THEIR CAPACITY, THE
OFFICIALS SAID. THEY SAID THAT INASMUCH AS THE RAINY SEASON DOES
NOT BEGIN UNTIL NEXT MAY, THERE IS NO RELIEF IN SIGHT AND THE
WATER SHORTAGE CAN ONLY BE EXPECTED TO WORSEN.

THE WATER SITUATION OF HAVANA'S POPULATION ^{BECAUSE} TO DETERIORATE
WITH MOST THE CITY'S URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS RECEIVING RUNNING
WATER FOR ONLY THREE OR FOUR HOURS EVERY DAY OR EVERY OTHER DAY AND
ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE POPULATION RECEIVING WATER IN TANK TRUCKS.

IN HIS RECENT SPEECH TO THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE THIRD COM
MUNIST PARTY CONGRESS, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO SAID THAT
THE SCANT RAIN AND SHORTAGE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES WOULD
NEGATIVELY EFFECT CROPS, MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTION. HE ALSO
SAID THAT THE DROUGHT HAD ALREADY REDUCED CRUDE SUGAR PRODUCTION
BY ONE MILLION TONNES BUT IT WAS UNCLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT WHETHER
HE WAS SPEAKING OF LAST YEARS HARVEST, WHICH SUFFERED A SHORTFALL
OF OVER ONE MILLION TONNES, OR THE CURRENT HARVEST WHICH RECENTLY
BEGAN..

CUBAN SUGAR EXPERTS HAVE TOLD REUTER THAT THE DROUGHT WILL
REDUCE SUGAR OUTPUT THIS YEAR, BUT THEY REFUSE TO SPECULATE TO WHAT
EXTENT.

1986

12R-86-7

UU LEN NYK BAS
NIS:GREGORY PECK/CUBA

(PIX WILL FOLLOW VIA NASPIX)

GREGORY PECK CALLS FOR U.S. AND CUBA TO PATCH UP THEIR DIFFERENCES
BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, DEC 13, REUTER -- GREGORY PECK, THE GENTLEMANLY, SEVENTY YEAR OLD HOLLYWOOD MOVIE IDOL, WHO ATTENDED THE EIGHTH FESTIVAL OF NEW LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA HERE AND MET BRIEFLY WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO TOLD REUTER THAT MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WOULD LIKE +TO SEE THE CUBAN AND AMERICANS PATCH UP THEIR DIFFERENCES, END THE U.S. ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF CUBA AND FOR US TO DO BUSINESS WITH THEM AGAIN AND HELP THEM WITH OUR RESOURCES.+

PECK SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH FIDEL CASTRO. +FROM ONE MAN TO ANOTHER, I FELT AN IMMEDIATE ATTRACTION AND GREAT RESPECT.+ +I THINK HE IS A GREAT HUMAN BEING, ONE OF THE WISEST AND MOST GENEROUS AND REALISTIC PEOPLE AND ALSO ONE OF THE MOST ENTERTAINING CONVERSATIONALISTS THAT I HAVE KNOWN.+ PECK SAID.

PECK SAID THAT CASTRO ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS WORK, HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER AND ABOUT THE MOVIE FESTIVAL HERE.

+I FOUND OUT THAT HE HAS AN AMAZING MEMORY. THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE, ABOUT SEVENTY OF US, FIDEL SPOKE TO ALL OF US AND THREE HOURS LATER, WHEN HE SAID GOOD-BYE, HE SURPRISED ME BY CALLING MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER BY THEIR NAMES.+

PECK SAID THAT HIS EXPERIENCE IN CUBA HAD BEEN +UNFORGETTABLE.+ HE SAID THAT HE HAD FELT +A HUMAN ATMOSPHERE AND A SENSE OF BROTHERHOOD.+ PECK SAID THAT JUST AS JACK LEMMON, HARRY BELAFONTE AND SYDNEY POITIER HAD URGED HIM TO GO TO CUBA TO SEE FOR HIMSELF, HE +WILL TRY TO SEE THAT OTHER IMPORTANT MOVIE STARS GO TO THE NEXT FESTIVAL...+ HE SAID HE WOULD NOT REVEAL THE NAMES OF THE STARS HE HAD IN MIND +BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE ACTORS WELL KNOWN TO THE CUBAN PUBLIC.+

--MORE/LEM
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MIS-GREGORY PECK/CUBA 2HAVANA

PECK, WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES FOR SEVERAL YEARS SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LATIN AMERICAN FILMS COMPETE FOR THE OSCARS AND THAT HE WOULD SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN THE ACADEMY AND THE CUBAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY. +I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO INITIATE THIS KIND OF PEOPLE TO PEOPLE COMMUNICATION,+ HE SAID.

THE HOLLYWOOD STAR, SPOKE ABOUT HIS NEXT PICTURE, AMAZING GRACE AND CHUCK, WHICH SHOULD BE PREMIERED NEXT MARCH. IN THE PICTURE HE PLAYS THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. +I INTERPRET A MAN WHOSE POLITICAL LIFE WAS DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE,+ HE SAID.

+THE PRESIDENT IN THE FILM, HE SAID, +IS NOT A HISTORICAL FIGURE BUT HE MIGHT BE AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF THE NEAR FUTURE.+

--REUTER/LEM

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