

1986
RR-86-18
-U LEM NYK BAS

MIS:DEFENSE EXERCISES

PEACE AND WAR COEXIST DURING CUBA'S MOCK WAR EXERCISES:

BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, DEC 13, REUTER -- CUBA LIVED A DOUBLE LIFE THIS PAST WEEK, THAT OF PEACE AND THAT OF A MOCK WAR - BASTION '86, THE BIGGEST MILITARY EXERCISES INVOLVING ONE MILLION ARMED MEN AND WOMEN IN THE NATION'S HISTORY.

+OUTSIDE, IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN TOWNS, CHILDREN WENT TO SCHOOL AND LIFE WENT ON PLACIDLY, WHILE INSIDE, AT THE COMMAND POST SOMEWHERE IN CUBA, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND THE MINISTER AND TOP OFFICIALS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES, WERE INVOLVED IN SOLVING THE COMPLEX AND URGENT PROBLEMS OF A COUNTRY AT WAR. + THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, GRANMA WROTE.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS DROPPED THE BLUE SHIRTS, OLIVE GREEN PANTS AND BLACK BOOTS OF THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO BECOME FULL OR PART TIME SOLDIERS DURING THE WEEK. THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, FIDEL CASTRO, AND OTHER TOP MILITARY LEADERS, ROAMED THE COUNTRY TO INSPECT THE LEVEL OF LOCAL MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND THE MOCK MILITARY OPERATIONS.

BASTION '86 WAS DEFINED AS +A HIGHER FORM OF TRAINING FOR A WAR OF ALL THE PEOPLE, + THE TERM GIVEN TO THE KIND OF WAR CUBA IS PREPARING TO ENGAGE IN IF ATTACKED OR INVADDED.

POPULAR PASSIONS WERE GALVANIZED WITH APPEALS TO PATRIOTISM, REVOLUTIONARY SENTIMENTS AND ANTI-IMPERIALISM. A SPECIAL TABLOID EDITION OF GRANMA CARRIED THE BANNER HEADLINE, +LOVE, MOTHER, MOTHERLAND+ (EL AMOR, MADRE, PATRIA), WORDS USED IN A POEM BY CUBA'S UNDISPUTED NATIONAL HERO OF THE LAST CENTURY, JOSE MARTI. THE TABLOID PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF CUBA'S NATIONAL ANTHYM WITH ITS WORDS, +TO DIE FOR YOUR COUNTRY IS TO LIVE, + AND THE PATRIOTIC WRITINGS ABOUT INDEPENDENCE AND DEATH OF CUBA'S HEROS OF THE WAR AGAINST SPANISH DOMINATION IN THE FINAL PART OF THE LAST CENTURY AND OF ITS PATRIOTIC HEROS, INCLUDING FIDEL CASTRO, OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.

==MORE/LEM

1986

26-18

LEN NYK BAS
IS:DEFENSE EXERCISES 2HAVANA

THE FLIGHT OVER CUBA LAST MONDAY, WHICH WASHINGTON REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY, OF A U.S. SR-71 RECONNAISSANCE PLANE SERVED TO PROVE FOR MANY CUBANS THAT THE POLICY OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WAS PROVOCATIVE AND THREATENING. FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF ONE MILLION OUT OF HAVANA'SK POPULATION OF TWO MILLION PEOPLE, DEMONSTRATIONS WENT ON IN FRONT OF THE OLD U.S. EMBASSY BUILDING HERE PROTESTING THE SPY FLIGHT.

SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE THE MOST EXHUBERANT PARTICIPATNS IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS AS THEY SHOUTED SLOGANS AGAINST U.S. POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA AND CUBA AND WAVED HUNDREDF DIFFERENT HAND-PAINTED POSTERS WITH CHARACATURES OF RONALD REAGAN. THE OVERFLIGHT BY THE SR-71 HELPED TO JUSTIFY THE ANALYSIS BY FIDEL CASTRO THAT CUBA MUST BE WELL PREPARED MILITARILY TO MEET ANY U.S. SPONSORED Agression..

THE EXERCISES BEGAN LAST SUNDAY WITH AIR RAID SIRENS SOUNDING IN CUBAN CITIES, ARTILLERY BOOMINGS ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AND SOVIET-MADE AK-47 RIFLES SPITTING FIRE AND MISS YOOHING OVERHEAD AT LOW ALTITUDES AS THE ISLAND FOUGHT -ENEMY- TROOPS AND AIR ATTACKS.

THE PART OF HAVANA'S POPULATION NOT INVOLVED IN BATTLE PLANS SOUGHT REFUGE IN PREDETERMINED AIR RAID SHELTERS, FOR THE MOST PART THE UNDERGROUND GARAGES OF MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS. OTHER CIVILIANS, MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER PEOPLE'S -MILITIA AND BRIGADES FOR PRODUCTION AND DEFENSE RUSHED TO THEIR PREASSIGNED BATTLE POSTS.

==MORE/LEM
NNNN

1976
LEN NYK BAS
HIS DEFENSE EXERCISES HAVANA

A SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE HAVANA PROVINCE DEFENSE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE "ENEMY ATTACK" REPORTED THAT CASUALTIES HAD BEEN LIGHT. THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT THE AREA HAD BEEN HIT BY CRUISE MISSILES AND ONE HUNDRED ENEMY PLANES.

THE INITIAL DAY OF BASTION '86 WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE INVOLVED SEVEN MILLION OF CUBA'S TEN MILLION POPULATION IN ONE MAY OR ANOTHER, WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC MOMENT OF THE EXERCISES. DURING MOST OF THE WEEK, WHILE LIFE CONTINUED NORMALLY FOR MOST CUBANS, THE ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE'S MILITIA CARRIED OUT MILITARY AND CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE LOCAL DEFENSE ZONE DEFENSE COMMAND POSTS.

CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO, DEFENSE MINISTER RAUL CASTRO AND OTHER HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS, VISITED CITIES, RURAL TOWNS AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS TO INSPECT LOCAL UNITS. FIDEL CASTRO COMMENTED DURING HIS VISIT TO VINALES VALLEY IN PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE: "YOU HAVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE TRENCHES HERE WITH WEAPONS THAN WE HAD IN OUR ENTIRE REBEL ARMY AT THE TIME OF VICTORY IN 1959."

THE CUBAN LEADER ALSO VISITED FIELD WORK SHOPS WHERE WORKERS MANUFACTURED MINES, BOOBY TRAPS AND BARS AND SPIKED ANTI PERSONNEL AND VEHICLE WEAPONS OF THE SORT USED BY THE VIETCONGS DURING ITS WAR AGAINST U.S. TROOPS.

PART OF THE BASTION '86 EXERCISE INVOLVED KEEPING PRODUCTION AND SERVICES OPERATING UNDER WAR CONDITIONS. THE OTHER PART INVOLVED ORGANIZING AND CARRYING OUT FRONTAL AND GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST AN INVADER.

==KORE/LEM
NNNN

LEN NYK BAS

IS: DEFENSE EXERCISES 4HAVANA

IN THE BATTLE EXERCISE IN THE PLAYAA SECTION OF HAVANA. LOCAL MILITIA TROOPS CONFRONTED +THE INFILTRATION OF A DIVERSIONIST GROUP WHOSE OBJECT IS TO DESTROY THE COMMAND POST OF THE MUNICIPAL DEFENSE COUNCIL COMMAND POST.+ THE NEWSPAPER THAT REPORTED THE EVENT SPOKE OF +DETECTION, COMBAT AND ANNIHILATION OF THE INFILTRATING CONTINGENT.

THE TINY TOWN OF EL GABRIEL WAS THE OBJECT OF A BOMB ATTACK WITH AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. MANY CUBANS DURING THE WEEK, WITH THEIR ACCUSTOMED HUMOR IN TACT, WERE HEARD SAYING SOMETHING LIKE, +I AM OUT OF IT BECAUSE I WAS KILLED

WHEN MY BUILDING WAS HIT BY A BOMB.+

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF BASTION '86, ACCORDING TO CUBAN SOURCES, WAS TO ACTIVIZE THE DECENTRALIZED DEFENSIVE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL RESISTANCE IN CASE OF WAR. THE LOCAL COMMANDERS WOULD COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM LED BY THE REGULAR CUBAN ARMED FORCES AND GUIDED ON ALL LEVELS BY THE NATION'S COMMUNIST PARTY APPARATUS.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TRADE UNIONS, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND THE FEDERATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE SIX MILLION MEMBER COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION WERE ALL INTEGRATED INTO THE DEFENSE AND BATTLE PLANS DURING THE BASTION +86 EXERCISES

--REUTER/LEM

NNNN