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MIS:ROBBERY

1984

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PAINTINGS OF CUBAN ARTIST WILDREDO LAM STOLEN AND RECOVERED:
HAVANA, DEC 31, --REUTER. -- THE DETAILS OF THE ROBBERY AND
RECOVERY OF EIGHT VALUABLE OIL PAINTINGS BY THE RENOWNED CUBAN
ARTIST, WILDREDO LAM, AN INTIMATE FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE OF PABLO
PICASSO FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES, WERE REVEALED IN THE NEWSPAPER
JUVENTUD REBELDE TODAY.

THE ROBBERY TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 5 AT THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM
IN HAVANA (MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES) AND THE CRIMINALS WERE CAPTURED
NINETEEN DAYS LATER. THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE FOUR ROBBERS CONFESSED
THEIR GUILD AND LED POLICE TO A FARM NEAR HAVANA WHERE THEY FOUND
THE OIL PAINTINGS WRAPPED IN PLASTIC AND HIDDEN IN A TRACTOR TIRE.

CUBAN SOURCES DESCRIBED THE CRIME AS AMATEURISH. NONE OF THE
FOUR MEN HAD A POLICE RECORD.

CUBAN MUSEUM OFFICIALS SAID THE PAINTINGS WERE VALUED AT
A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS BUT KNOWLEDGABLE WESTERN DIPLOMATS
SAID THEY WOULD HAVE FETCHED AT LEAST ONE MILLION DOLLARS OUTSIDE
CUBA.

LAM'S PRIMITIVELY POWERFUL "THE JUNGLE" (LA JUNGLA), PAINTED
IN 1943, BROUGHT HIM INTERNATIONAL FAME WHEN IT WAS EXHIBITED
IN THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN NEW YORK.

THE CUBAN PAINTER LEFT THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND IN 1937 TO TAKE
PART IN THE LOYALIST CAUSE DURING THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. FOLLOWING
FRANCO'S VICTORY, HE FLED TO PARIS WHERE PICASSO BECAME HIS MENTOR
AND FRIEND.

HE RECALLED LATER THAT HIS PROUDEST MOMENT WAS WHEN PICASSO
LOOKED AT ONE OF HIS PAINTINGS AND SAID, "YOU ARE A TRUE ARTIST."

LAM RETURNED TO CUBA IN 1980 AND DIED IN HAVANA IN 1982
AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY NINE. THE BURIAL CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY
CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO.

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MIS:BUDGET 2HAVANA

DURING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION A LAW ON STATE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR 1987 WAS ALSO APPROVED. THE LAW PROJECTED AN ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE OF BETWEEN 4.5 AND 2.0 PERCENT FOR 1987 AND AN OVERALL RISE IN EXPORTS OF FIVE TO SIX PERCENT. - THE GOAL FOR THE ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE IS THE LOWEST IN RECENT YEARS.

IN HIS SPEECH TO THE ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLAN FOR 1987, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO MADE A LENGTHY SPEECH IN WHICH HE ANALYZED THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF CUBA. HE READ OFF A LIST OF AUSTERITY MEASURES THAT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED NEXT YEAR WITH THE GOAL OF REDUCING HARD CURRENCY EXPENDITURES AND BALANCING THE ISLAND'S DOMESTIC BUDGET.

AMONG THE AUSTERITY MEASURES ARE A TWENTY PERCENT CUT IN GASOLINE CONSUMPTION BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY, A RISE IN PRICE OF GASOLINE, THE REDUCED USE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED VEHICLES FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES, A RISE IN ELECTRICAL POWER RATES AND IN LOCAL AND INTER-PROVINCIAL BUS FARES.

THE CUBAN LEADER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT LESS IMPORTED SKIMMED MILK WILL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF +LIQUID MILK+ DURING CUBA'S DRY SEASON WHEN NATIONAL MILK PRODUCTION GOES DOWN. HE ALSO SAID THE FREE LUNCHES AT WORKERS CAFETERIAS WOULD BE ENDED AND THAT THE SNACK BARS IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WOULD BE SHUT DOWN. IN THE PAST, CASTRO HAS OBSERVED THAT TOO MUCH TIME IS WASTED BY OFFICE EMPLOYEES AT THE SNACK BARS IN DETRIMENT TO PRODUCTIVITY

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