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POL: COUNCIL OF STATE

1986

RR-86-3

CASTRO REELECTED PRESIDENT BUT MAJOR CHANGES IN COUNCIL OF STATE:
HAVANA, DEC 27, REUTER -- FIDEL CASTRO, FIRST SECRETARY OF CUBA'S
COMMUNIST PARTY, WAS REELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PEOPLE'S POWER TODAY WHICH ALSO CHOSE
ELEVEN NEW MEMBERS OF THE THIRTY ONE MEMBER BODY.

UNDER THE CUBAN CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
OF STATE IS THE NATION'S HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL
OF STATE RUNS THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN BETWEEN SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY WHICH NORMALLY MEETS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR FOR TWO OR THREE
DAYS.

IN LINE WITH FIDEL CASTRO'S SUGGESTION EARLIER THIS YEAR AT THE
THIRD CONGRESS OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, MORE WOMEN, MORE BLACKS
AND MORE PERSONS WITH EXPERIENCE ON THE GRASSROOTS WERE ELECTED
TO THE COUNCIL. THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL WAS ELECTED IN 1981.

THE NAMES OF ALL THIRTY ONE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE SUBMITTED
AS A SLATE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY AN ELECTION COMMITTEE.

ALL SIX VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL ARE MEMBERS
OF THE POLITBURO OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY. GENERAL RAUL CASTRO,
THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE MINISTER OF
THE ARMED FORCES WAS REELECTED FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL. JUAN ALMEIDA AND CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ WERE REELECTED AS
VICE-PRESIDENTS WHILE OSMANY CIENFUEGOS, JOSE MACHADO VENTURA AND
PEDRO MIRET, WHO WERE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL IN 1981 WERE NOW
ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENTS.

MEMBERS REELECTED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE ARE ARMANDO ACOSTA,
SEVERO AGUIE RPT AGUIRRE RRI, FLAVIO BRAVO, GENERAL SENEN CASAS REGUI
RO, GENERAL
ABALARDO COLOME IBARRA, VILMA ESPIN (PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN
FEDERATION OF WOMEN), JOSE RAMON FERNANDEZ (MINISTER OF EDUCATION),
ARMANDO HART (MINISTER OF CULTURE) JOSE RAMIREZ CRUZ (PRESIDENT
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SMALL FARMERS) AND ROBERTO VEIGA (SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE CUBAN

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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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