

1986
UU LEN NYK BAS
DIP: SPAIN-CUBA

GONZALEZ RECEIVES MEDAL AND BEGINS PRIVATE TALKS WITH CASTRO:
BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, NOV 14, REUTER - SPANISH PREMIER FELIPE GONZALEZ AND CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT TODAY AS THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR PRIVATE TALKS BEGAN AT AN UNDISCLOSED SITE.

GONZALEZ ARRIVED IN HAVANA THURSDAY NIGHT FOR A THREE DAY VISIT ON THE LAST LEG OF A NINE DAY LATIN AMERICAN TOUR THAT ALSO TOOK HIM TO ECUADOR AND PERU.

WHEN GONZALEZ REACHED THE BOTTOM OF THE RAMP OF HIS SPANISH AIR FORCE DC-8 LAST NIGHT, WEARING A BROAD SMILE ON HIS FACE, HE AND PRESIDENT CASTRO EMBRACED. A SPANISH DIPLOMAT COMMENTED: "BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER AND MAYBE IDEOLOGY ALSO."

THE DIPLOMAT WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT SPAIN UNDER GONZALEZ HAS JOINED THE NATO ALLIANCE AND CUBA UNDER FIDEL CASTRO IS AN ALLY OF THE SOVIET UNION BUT THAT BLOOD TIES BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND SPANISH PEOPLE ARE VERY STRONG. CUBA WAS THE LAST SPANISH COLONY IN THE NEW WORLD TO WIN ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN LESS THAN A CENTURY AGO.

THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT EVEN DURING THE REIGN OF RANCISCO FRANCO IN SPAIN THE TWO NATIONS MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATION IN SPITE OF FIDEL CASTRO'S EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR THE FRANCO REGIME.

IN ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF HISTORICAL RECONCILIATION, GONZALEZ WAS GIVEN THE ORDER OF JOSE MARTI, CUBA'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR FOREIGNERS LAST NIGHT. JOSE MARTI WAS CUBA'S INDEPENDENCE HERO WHO LED HIS NATION'S VIOLENT INDEPENDENCE WAR AGAINST SPAIN AT THE END OF THE LAST CENTURY. THIS MORNING'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER GRANMA CARRIES A LARGE, FRONT PAGE PHOTO SHOWING CASTRO PINNING THE MEDAL ON GONZALEZ' LAPEL.

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GRANMA SAID THAT THE ORDER OF JOSE MARTI WAS GIVEN TO GONZALEZ +IN CONSIDERATION FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.+ (EN CONSIDERACION A SU AMISTAD Y SOLIDARIDAD CON LA REVOLLUCION CUBANA) A CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID THE AWARD WAS FOR GONZALEZ'S SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA LONG BEFORE HE BECAME THE REMIER OF SPAIN.

TEN YEARS AGO, AS HEAD OF THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PARTIDO SOCIALISTA OBRERO ESPANOL), GONZALEZ VISITED CUBA AT THE INVIAATION OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY +INORDER TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE EUROPE.+ IN 1979 HE VISITED HAVANA AND MET WITH FIDEL CASTRO IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AT THE TIME AS +A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY VISIT.+

THE CONVERSATIONS THAT BEGIN TODAY ARE THE FIRST TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS SINCE CASTRO MADE WHAT WAS CALLED +A TECHNICAL STOPOVER+ IN MADRID IN FEBRUARY 1984 ON HIS RETURN FLIGHT FROM MOSCLW WHERE HE HAD ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF SOVIET LEADER YURI ANDROPOV.

THE SPANISH LEADER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED DURING HIS TALKS WITH CASTRO BY JULIO FEO (FOR SPANISH ADD +ZARANDIETA+), THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SPANISH PRESIDENCY. (SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA PRESIDENCIA)

WHILE GONZALEZ AND CASTRO MEET, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE VISITING PREMIER'S DELEGATION, FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATION, CARLOS SOLCHAGO, THE MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY (ECONOMIA Y HACIENDA) AND JAVIER SOLANA, MINISTER OF CULTURE, WILL HOLD MEETING WITH HIGH CUBAN OFFICIALS IN HAVANA.

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ACCORDING TO BOTH CUBAN AND SPANISH OFFICIALS THE THEME OF GREATEST POLITICAL COINCIDENCE BETWEEN CASTRO AND GONZALEZ IS THEIR DIEHARD OPPOSITION TO GREAT BRITAIN'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A 150 MILE FISHING ZONE AROUND THE MALVINAS (FALKLAND ISLANDS) TWO WEEKS AGO.

BOTH SPAIN AND CUBA SUPPORTED ARGENTINA'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS DURING THE TEN DAY WAR IN 1982.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE TWO LEADERS MIGHT ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT, SIMILAR TO THAT SIGNED BY GONZALEZ AND PRESIDENT ALAN GARCIA OF PERU AT THE END OF HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO LIMA. PERU AND SPAIN SAID THEY WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE BRITISH DECISION AND MADE AN URGENT CALL TO THE PARTIES TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY THAT WOULD LEAD TO AN UNDERSTANDING IN ACCORD WITH RESOLUTION 48/21 OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (LLAMAMEINTO URGENTE A LAS PARTES PARA QUE INICIEN DE INMEDIATO NEGOCIACIONES QUE CONDUZCAN A UN ENTENDAMIENTO CONFORME A LO DISPUESTO POR LA RESOLUCION 48/21 DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS)

THE CUBAN AND SPANISH LEADERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE WAYS TO SEEK A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFLICTS, THE THIRD WORLD'S FOREIGN DEBT AND CUBA'S 375 MILLION DOLLAR DEBT TO SPAIN AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR SPANISH PROPERTIES NATIONALIZED BY THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN 1960.

GONZALEZ IS ALSO EXPECTED TO REQUEST THE RELEASE FROM CUBAN JAILS OF A NUMBER OF SPANISH CITIZENS CHARGED WITH COMMON CRIMES AND OTHERS WHO ARE SO-CALLED POLITICAL PRISONERS.

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AMONG THE NAMES ON THE LIST, SPANISH SOURCES SAID, IS ELOY GUTIERREZ MENYO, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO THIRTY YEARS IN JAIL IN 1965 AFTER HE ENTERED CUBA CLANDESTINELY FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ORGANIZE EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW FIDEL CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT. SPAIN CLAIMS GUTIERREZ MENYO AS A CITIZEN BUT CUBANS INSIST HE IS A CUBAN NATIONAL.

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, THE VISITING SPANISH MINISTERS ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT A PART OF THE OLD COLONIAL SECTION OF HAVANA WHICH HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED AND DECLARED A WORLD HISTORICAL MONUMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

ON SUNDAY MORNING, WHICH IS THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF HAVANA BY A SMALL GROUP OF SPANISH SETTLERS, GONZALEZ WILL VISIT THE SPOT IN OLD HAVANA (HABANA VIEJA) WHERE THE SETTLERS HELD THEIR FIRST MASS ON THE SHORE OF HAVANA BAY.

THE SPANISH PREMIER IS SCHEDULED TO HOST A DINNER FOR HIS CUBAN HOST ON SUNDAY BEFORE TAKING OFF ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO MADRID.

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