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1986

CUBAN PRESIDENT MEETS WITH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS:

BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, NOV 28, REUTER -- CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO TOLD A DELEGATION FROM THE TWELVE-NATION EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TONIGHT THAT IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO SET UP A DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND ITS NEIGHBORS, HONDURAS AND COSTA RICA, IN ORDER TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TOLD REUTER.

THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AGREED MENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH CASTRO DURING THEIR THREE HOURS WITH HIM.

THE DELEGATES ARE ENDING THEIR SIX NATION TOUR OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS WHICH ALSO TOOK THEM TO GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA.

THE CUBAN PRESIDENT TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION THAT HE WAS ASTONISHED TO LEARN THAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT THE IRANIAN ARMS DEAL AND THE TRANSFER OF MONEY TO THE CONTRAS.

DELEGATES SAID THAT CASTRO TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A PLAN TO STEP UP ITS AGGRESSIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA BUT THAT THE IRANIAN ARMS DEAL SCANDAL MIGHT FORCE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO CHANGE ITS PLANS BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION.

ONE PARLIAMENTARIAN SAID THAT CASTRO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HOPED FOR A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TOWARD THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFLICT AND THAT HE MADE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE POLICY OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. THE PARLIAMENTARIAN SAID THAT CASTRO MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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THE DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS HEADED BY ALFRED LOMAS, BRITISH LABOUR M.P. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE SYLVESTER BARNET OF IRELAND, ELENA FLORES OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY OF SPAIN, GIULIO FANTI OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY, PAUL STAES OF THE FLEMISH GREEN PARTY OF BELGIUM, PAUL MARCK OF THE FLEMISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF BELGIUM, JAS GOWRONSKI OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF ITALY AND FREDERICK TUCKMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION SAID THAT CASTRO SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR A TOTAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE YEAR 2000. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE AND THAT EUROPE HAD SO MANY WEAPONS ON ITS SOIL THAT IF WAR CAME, EUROPE WOULD BE DESTROYED.

CASTRO SAID, ACCORDING TO THE PARLIAMENTARIANS, THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY HOW FAR GORBACHOV WENT IN MAKING CONCESSION AT THE ICELAND SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN. HE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE WESTERN POSITION OF FEELING, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAS STRONGER CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND THAT BY ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IT WOULD BE AT A DISADVANTAGE. BUT, HE SAID, SOVIET PARTY LEADER GORBACHOV HAS DECLARED THAT HE IS QUITE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE REDUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AS WELL.

THE CUBAN LEADER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND CUBA'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN SUCH FIELDS AS MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

CASTRO TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT THERE WAS NOW A BATTLE IN PROGRESS IN CUBA AGAINST THE BUREAUCRATIC AND TECHNOCRATIC APPROACH TO BUILDING SOCIALISM AND THAT THERE WILL BE INSISTANCE THAT IDEOLOGICAL PURITY AND SO-CALLED MORAL INCENTIVES PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN OVERCOMING SHORTCOMINGS.

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FIDEL AND RAUL CASTRO ELECTED DEPUTIES TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

HAVANA, NOV 28, REUTER -- FIDEL CASTRO, PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN STATE COUNCIL (CONSEJO DEL ESTADO), COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA, WAS ELECTED DEPUTY TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PEOPLE'S POWER (PODER POPULAR) AS WAS HIS BROTHER, GENERAL RAUL CASTRO, THE MINISTER OF THE ARMED FORCES, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN STATE COUNCIL AND SECOND SECRETARY OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, GRANMA REPORTED TODAY.

UNDER THE CUBAN CONSTITUTION, IT IS NECESSARY THAT MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN COUNCIL OF STATE BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE DEPUTIES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE ELECTION OF THE TWO CASTROS VIRTUALLY ENSURES THEIR REELECTION TO THE POSTS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

CASTRO WAS CHOSEN AS DELEGATE BY THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND, WHERE HE ATTENDED PAROCHIAL SCHOOL AS A CHILD. SANTIAGO DE CUBA WAS THE FIRST MAJOR CITY TO FALL TO CASTRO'S REBEL ARMY ONLY DAYS BEFORE FULGENCIO BATISTA, THE CUBAN DICTATOR FLED CUBA ON NEW YEARS EVE OF 1959. BEFORE THAT, IN JULY OF 1953, FIDEL CASTRO LED A SMALL BAND OF FOLLOWERS ON AN ATTACK AGAINST THE MONCADA BARRACKS IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA'S SECOND BIGGEST ARMY BASE.

ELECTION FOR THE 310 DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TOOK PLACE IN CUBA'S 162 MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLIES OF PEOPLE'S POWER YESTERDAY.

RAUL CASTRO WAS CHOSEN DEPUTY FROM MAYARI ARRIBA, CLOSE TO THE PLACE HE AND FIDEL CASTRO WERE BORN AND IN THE AREA WHERE HE LED A SECOND GUERRILLA FRONT IN THE WAR TO OVERTHROW BATISTA.

JUAN ALMEIDA BOSQUE, VILMA ESPIN, ARMANDO HART AND ARMANDO HARTY ~~AUS~~ ~~HARTY~~ AND ESTEBAN LAZO, ALL MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO OF CUBA'S COMMUNIST PARTY WERE ALSO CHOSEN AS DEPUTIES BY THE SANTIAGO DE CUBA MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY.

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