

UU LEN NYK BAS

DIP: GONZALEZ-GUTIERREZ MENOYO

1986
IMPRISONED GUERRILLA LEADER WILL FIGURE IN CASTRO-GONZALEZ TALKS:

BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, NOV 13, REUTER -- ACCORDING TO JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY
IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORP HERE

NR 86-53
IN HAVANA, ONE OF THE INTRIGUING QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE THREE
DAY VISIT OF SPANISH PREMIER FILOPE GONZALEZ TO CUBA IS WHETHER
OR NOT HE WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO
TO RELEASE ELOY GUTIERREZ MENOYO, THE FORMER LEADER OF A GUERRILLA
GROUP THAT FOUGHT TO OVERTHROW THE DICTATOR FULGENCIO BATISTA
PRIOR TO THE VICTORY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION IN 1959., WHO HAS BEEN
IN CUBAN JAILS SINCE 1965.

GONZALEZ IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HAVANA TONIGHT AND IS
SCHEDULED TO SPEND FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN TALKS WITH CASTRO
DURING WHICH THE CASE OF GUTIERREZ-MENOYO WILL AGMØST CERTAINLY
BE DISCUSSED.

GUTIERREZ MENOYO HAS SPENT THE LAST TWENTY ONE YEARS IN
CUBAN JAILS. WHILE THE CUBANS CONSIDER HIM A CUBAN CITIZEN, SPAIN
CLAIMS HIM AS ONE OF THEIR OWN. HIS NAME IS THE MOST PROMINENT
ON A LIST OF OTHER SPANISH NATIONALS IN CUBAN JAILS THAT GONZALEZ
WILL HAND TO CASTRO.

A SPANISH DIPLOMAT WHO ARRIVED IN HAVANA EARLY TO HELP COORDINATE
PREMIER GONZALEZ' VIST TOLD REUTER THAT THE CASE OF GUITERREZ
MENOYO WILL CERTAINLY BE RAISED BUT THAT GONZALEZ WILL NOT MEASURE
THE SUCCESS OF HIS VIST BY THE GUTIERREZ MENOYO CASE.

THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT QUESTINS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, CUBAN
COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED SPANISH COMPANIES, THE FOREIGN
DEBT AND WORLD ISSUES, SUCH AS THE CONFLICT IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND
THE BRITISH DECISION TO ESTABLISH A FISING ZONE AROUND THE MALVINAS
(FALKLAND ISLANDS) WILL BE MUCH MORE CENTRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF
THE VISIT.

==MORE/LEM

NNNN

UU LEN NYK BAS

DIP:GONZALEZ-GUTIERREZ MENOYO 2HAVANA

HOWEVER, SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS SAID THAT THE SPANISH PREMIER IS UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE AT HOME TO EXTRACT SOME CONCESSION FROM CASTRO REGARDING GUTIERREZ MENOYO. ONE OF THEM REFERRED TO THIS WEEKS EDITION OF THE SPANISH MAGAZINE +CAMBIO 16+ WHICH WROTE THAT +THE LIBERATION OF GUTIERREZ MENOYO IS ALREADY A CERTAINTY+ AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SUCCESS OF PREMIER GONZALEZ' VISIT TO CUBA SHOULD BE MEASURED BY HIS SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN HAVING GUTIERREZ MENOYO RELEASED.

A CUBAN DIPLOMAT WHO FLEW IN FROM SPAIN FOR THE GONZALEZ VISIT TOLD REUTER THAT +A CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN SPAIN AROUND THE GUTIERREZ MENOYO CASE BY CUBAN-EXILE, ANTI-CASTRO ELEMENTS AND THAT IT IS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY THE CIA.+ HE SAID THAT +THE OBJECT IS TO CONCEAL THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT, ITS POSITIVE EFFECTS ON CUBA-SPANISH RELATIONS AND THE COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS ON KEY PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE CONTADORA GROUPS PLAN FOR PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE BRITISH DECISION TO SET UP UNILATERALLY A 200 MILES FISHING ZONE AROUND THE MALVINAS. (FALKLAND ISLANDS)

WHILE GUTIERREZ MENOYO MIGHT BE AN ANTI-CASTRO HERO AND HUMAN RIGHTS CASE TO MANY, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS HIM A REPRHENSIBLE TRAITOR WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MANY INNOCENT CUBANS.. ACCORDING TO CUBAN SOURCES, GUTIERREZ MENOYO LEFT CUBA FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTION AND WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF +ALPHA 66+, A PARAMILITARY GROUP WHICH MADE ARMED ATTACKS ON CUBAN FISHING VESSELS AND USED VIOLENCE AGAINST CUBAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OFFICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES..

==MORE/LEM

NNNN

UU LEN NYK BAS

DIP:GONZALEZ-GUTIERREZ MENOYO 3HAVANA

IN 1965 GUTIERREZ MENOYO RETURNED TO CUBA CLANDESTINELY TO HELP ORGANIZE THE OVERTHROW OF CASTRO'S COMMUNIST REGIME. HE WAS CAPTURED AND TRIED BY A REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY TRIBUNAL. CUBAN SOURCES SAY THAT THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ASKED FOR THE DEATH PENALTY BUT THAT CASTRO INTERVENED TO SAVE HIS LIFE IN DEFERENCE TO THE MEMORY OF GUTIERREZ MENOYO'S BROTHER, CARLOS, WHO WAS A HERO OF THE REVOLUTION KILLED IN AN ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN MARCH 1957.

NEITHER SPANISH OR OTHER FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WILL PREDICT WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF GONZALEZ' APPEAL TO CASTRO. ONE CUBAN OFFICIAL SAID +IF FIDEL DOES DECIDE TO FREE GUTIERREZ MENOYO, IT WILL BE DONE AS A VERY PERSONAL FAVOR TO FILIPE.+ HE RECALLED THAT GUTIERREZ MENOYO'S NAME WAS ON THE LIST THAT THE U.S. POLITICAL LEADER, JESSE JACKSON HANDED TO FIDEL CASTRO DURING HIS VISIT TO HAVANA IN 1984. THE CUBAN PRESIDENT RELEASED MOST OF THOSE ON THE LIST, ALL U.S. CITIZENS WHO WERE ON JAIL FOR BEING CAUGHT IN CUBAN TERRITORIAL WATERS OR AIR SPACE WHILE TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT FREE GUTIERREZ MENOYO WHOSE NAME WAS GIVEN TO JACKSON BY MEMBERS OF ANTI-CASTRO EXILE GROUPS IN MIAMI.

==REUTER/LEM

NNNN