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POL:PLAGIARISM
CUBAN WRITER PREPARES TO SUE PUBLISHER OF DISSIDENT'S NOVEL:
HAVANA, SEPT 7, REUTER -- THE CUBAN WRITER, JOSE LORENZO FUENTES, DELCARED HERE THAT HIS LAWYERS HAVE+IRREFUTABLE PROOF+ THAT A NOVEL, +EL TIEMPO ES DIABLO+ (TIME IS THE DEVIL) PUBLISHED IN SPAIN AS THE WORK OF THE CUBAN POLITICAL DISSIDENT, RICARDO BOFILL, WAS WRITTEN BY HIM AND THAT THEY ARE PREPARING TO SUE THE PUBLISHER, +PLAYOR+.
BOFILL WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT. A HERMETIC SEAL OF SILENCE HAS SURROUNDED THE DISSIDENT SINCE HE SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN HAVANA ON AUGUST 27.
BOFILL, A FORMER PROFESSOR OF MARXIST PHILOSOPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA HAS SPENT TEN OF THE LAST TWENTY YEARS IN CUBAN JAILS. HE HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE CUBA TO JOIN HIS WIFE, MARIA ELENA BOFILL, IN MIAMI. BOFILL HAS BEEN A VOCIFEROUS CRITIC OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS' VIOLATIONS IN CUBA AND IS THE SELF-STYLED PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN COMMITTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAS INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS IN THE WEST.
JOSE LORENZO FUENTES, WHO SPENT THREE YEARS IN JAIL BETWEEN 1969 AND 1972 FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN AN ALLEGED SPY CASE INVOLVING A MEXICAN DIPLOMAT IN HAVANA, HAS WON SEVERAL IMPORTANT AWARDS FOR HIS SHORT STORIES AND NOVELS IN LATIN AMERICA. HIS FIRST WAS THE CUBA
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+HERNANDEI CATA AWARD+ IN 1952 AND THE LATEST WAS THE AWARD FOR THE BEST SHORT STORY BY THE MEXICAN LITERARY REVIEW +PLURAL+ IN 1983.
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    OTHER PROOFS THAT WILL BE PRESENTED IN COURT, LORENZO FUENTES SAID, RELATE TO THE FACT THAT HE USED THE NAMES OF A NUMBER OF HIS OWN RELATIVES IN THE NOVEL AND ALSO, THAT THE NAME OF A FICTITIOUS TOWN, +MABUJINA+ IN THE NOVEL HAD BEEN USED BY HIM IN HIS 1967 NOVEL ENTITLED +EL VENDEDOR DE DIAS+ PUBLISHED IN HAVANA.
    BOFILL'S SUPPORTERS HAVE A DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED VERSION OF EVENTS. A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF BOFILL WRITTEN BY A FORMER PRISON-MATE OF BOFILL, ARIEL HIDALGO, SAYS BOFILL WROTE THE NOVEL IN A CUBAN PRISON AND SENT IT TO LORENZO FUENTES IN 1968. HIDALGO CLAIMS THAT LORENZO FUENTES MADE SOME CHANGES IN THE BOOK IN ORDER TO PUBLISH IT UNDER HIS OWN NAME BUT THAT THE MANUSCRIPT +FELL INTO THE HANDS OF JAIL-MATES OF BOFILL+. +AWARE OF THE MISERABLE PLAGIARISM THAT JOSE LORENZO FUENTES WAS PREPARING TO COMMIT, THE FRIENDS OF BOFILL PUBLISHED THE NOVEL, BUT IN THE NAME OF THE TRUE AUTHOR, RICARDO BOFILL,+ HIDALGO WROTE.
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