POL:DISSIDENT,IN

1986

SILENCE CONTINUES TO SURROUND CUBAN DISSIDENT IN FRENCH EMBASSY:

HAVANA, SEPT. 7, REUTER -- THE CURTAIN OF SILENCE CONTINUES TO SURROUND THE CASE OF RICARDO BOFILL, A CUBAN POLITICAL DISSIDENT WHO HAS BEEN IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE SINCE AUGUST 27.

FRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO RESPOND TO JOURNALISTS' QUERIES CONCERNING BOFILL AND BOFILL HMSELF, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, IS PRONIBTED FROM CONTACTING JOURNALISTS BY PHONE.

SHORTLY AFTER BOFILL ENTERED THE EMBASSY AND REFUSED TO LEAVE, THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PARIS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH SAID: +THE EFFICACY OF OUR ACTIONS DEMANDS THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DISCRETION+.

BOFILL ENTERED THE EMBASSY THE DAY BEFORE CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO FLEW TO HARARE, ZIMBABWE FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

DIPLOMATS POINT OUT THAT BOFILL MIGHT GO ON A HUNGER STRIKE WHEN CASTRO RETURN TO CUBA. THEY SAY BOFILL WARNED THAT HE MIGHT STAGE A STRIKE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS BEFORE HE ENTERED THE FRENCH EMBASSY.

BOFILL, A FIFTY-TWO YEAR OLD FORMER PROFESSOR OF MARXIST PHILOSOPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA SPENT ALMOST A DECADE IN CUBAN JAILS SINCE 1968 FOR HIS OUTSPOKEN ATTACKS ON THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS RELEASED FROM HIS LAST STRETCH IN JAIL LAST YEAR.

MEANWHILE, THE CUBAN NOVELIST AND SHORT STORY WRITER, JOSE LORENZO FUENTES, WHO ALSO SPENT TIME IN A CUBAN JAIL IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES, ACCUSED BOFILL OF PLAGIARISM AND SAID HIS LAWYERS WERE PREPARING TO SUE. HE CLAIMS THAT BOFILL TOOK HIS NOVEL AND PUBLISHED IT IN SPAIN UNDER HIS OWN NAME. THE BOOK, +EL TIEMO ES EL DIABLO (TIME IS THE DEVIL) WAS PUBLISHED BY THE PLAYOR PUBLLISHING HOUSE. LORENZO FUENTES SAID HIS LAWYERS WERE PREPARING TO SUE THE PUBLISHER AND THAT THEY HAD UNREFUTABLE PROOF THAT THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY HIM.

==REUTER/LEM

NNNNNNN+

28354 RESLDN G

RR-86-105