1986

RR-86-118

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MED-SCANNER

ULTRA MODERN MAGNETIC RESONANCE SCANNER BECOME OPERATIONAL

HAVANA, AUG 18, REUTER -- THE FIRST STAGE OF A STATE OF THE ART, THREE MILLION DOLAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE SCANNER BOUGHT IN THE GERMAN FEDERAL REUBLIC HAS PUT INTO OPERATION AS PART OF CUBA'S DRIVE TO BECOME THE CENTER OF MEDICINE OF THE THIRD WORLD, CRANMA REPORTED TODAY.

THE ONLY OTHER MAGNETIC RESONANCE SCANNER IN USE ARE FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION, JAPAN, FRANCE AND THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

THE SCANNER IS A DIAGNOSTIC DEVICE THAT CAN STUDY BODY FLUIDS AND LIVING TISSUE AND DETECT METABOLIC ABNORMALITIES, TUMORS AND OTHER DESEASES.

THE SCANNER WAS INSTALLED IN HAVANA'S MODERN ALMEJEIRAS HOSPTIAL BY A JOINT FORCE OF WEST GERMAN AND CUBAN TECHNICIANS. IT IS IN THE IMAGERY DEPARTMENT WHICH ALSO OPERATES THE HOSPITAL'S X-RAY MACHINES, CATSCANS AND ULTRA-SOUND EQUIPMENT.

ACCORDING TO GRANMA, THIRTY PERCENT OF THOSE EXAMINED WITH THE SCANNER WILL COME FROM THE ALMEJEIRAS HOSPITAL WHILE ANOTHER SEVENTY PERCENT WILL BE SENT FROM OTHER HOSPITALS UNDER CUBA'S HEALTH SYSTEM. EXAMINATIONS CHARGES WILL BE [illegible]

DOCTOR BERTOLD KAHNTEL, DIRECTOR OF WEST GERMAN SIEMENS COMPANY WHICH BUILT THE SCANNER GAVE THE CUBANS AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY: "YOUR DECISION IS TRULY ONE THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE."

WHEN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION TRIUMPHED IN 1959 THERE WERE SIX THOUSAND LICENSED PHYSICIANS IN CUBA. BY 1961 THREE THOUSAND OF THEM HAD FLED. TODAY CUBA HAS 27,000 PHYSICIANS AND IS GRADUATING NEW ONES AT THE RATE OF 3000 A YEAR

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