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MIS:HOUSING
CUBAN GOVERNMENT ENDS CAPITALIST SPECULATION IN REAL ESTATE:
HAVANA, JUNE 14, REUTER -- LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER A WIDELY HERALDED HOUSING LAW WENT INTO EFFECT, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS CLAMPED DOWN ON THE FREE AND UNREGULATED SALE AND PURCHAES OF HOMES BECAUSE OF SPECULATION AND PROFITEERING BY MIDDLEMEN.
IN AN OFFICAL STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY AND PUUBLISHED IN TODAY'S +GRANMA+, CUBA'S NATIONAL INSTITUE OF HOUSING DECLARED HENCEFORTH THE STATE WILL BE THE SOLE AUTHORISED PURCHASER OF HOMES.
THE CAPITALIST BUSINESS PRACTICES IN HOME BUYING WHICH AROSE AFTER THE HOUSING LAW WENT INTO EFFECT IN JULY 1985 +ARE HARMFUL AND FOREIGN TO THE PRICNPLES OF THE LAW AND SOCIALISM,+ THE STATEMENT SAID.
THE HOUSING LAW GAVE EVERY CUBAN FAMILY THE RIGHT TO BUY THE HOME IN WHICH THEY LIVED AT A PRICE DETERMINED BY THE SIZE OF THE HOUSING UNIT AND THE NUMBER OF YEARS THE FAMILY HAD ALREADY PAID RENT.
THE END OF THE FRE MARKET IN HOME SALES WAS HINTEDAT ON MAY 18 BY CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTROWHEN HE SAID THAT THE HOUSING LAW +HAS BECOME A NEW MECHANISM FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF SOME.+ +IT IS INCREDIBLE,+ CASTRO SAID, +THAT ONE CAN CREATE A BUSINESS OF BUYING AND SELLING HOUSES WITHIN THE REVOLUTION.+ HE ALSO ATTACKED -THOSE +WHO BUY MATERIALS HERE AND AN EMPTY LOT THERE AND BUILD HOMES AND THEN SELL THEM.+
UNDER THE URBAN REFORM LAW OF 1960 ALL RENTAL PROPERTY WAS NATIONALISED AND RENTS WERE REDUCED TO TEN PERCENT OF A FAMILY'S INCOME. THOSE WHO OWNED THEIR OWN HOMES WERE ALLOWED TO KEEP THEM AND FAMILIES THAT HAD PAID RENT FOR TWENTY YEARS OR LONGER WERE GIVEN FULL PROPERTY TITLES TO THEIR APARTMENTS OR HOMES. UNDER THE LAW ALL TYPES OF REAL ESTATE SPECULATION WERE OUTLAWED.
YESTERDAY'S HOUSING DECREE COMES ONLY A MONTH AFTER THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE ABOLITION OF THE FREE FARMERS' MARKETS WHERE PRIVATE SMALL FARMERS COULD SELL DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE FARMERS PARTICIPATED IN THE MARKETS AND THAT ILLEGAL MIDDLEMEN USED THE MARKETS TO ENRICH THEMSELVES.
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