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144

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MIS FEA :EC-SEX (WITH PIX)(FEATURE)
CHANGING SEX ATTITUDES AND POLICIES IN CUBA:
BY LIONEL MARTIN
HAVANA, MAY 14, REUTER - LATER THIS MONTH, CUBA'S YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE (UNION DE JOVENES COMUNISTAS) WILL HOLD ITS THIRD SEMINAR ON SEXUAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY LIFE. THE MAJOR THEMES WILL BE: +TEEN-AGE PREGNANCY+(EL EMBARAZO EN EDADES TEMPRANAS), +TEEN-AGE MARRIAGE AND ITS SOCIAL IMPACT+ AND +DIVORCE AMONG YOUNG COUPLES.+

THE SEMINAR IS ANOTHER SIGN HERE IN CUBA THAT QUESTIONS RELATING TO SEX AND INTIMATE FAMILY RELATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM BEHIND THE VEIL WHERE THEY WERE CONCEALED TWO DECADES AGO INTO THE OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

THE SEMINAR'S THEMES ALSO INDICATE THAT REVOLUTIONNARY CUBA IS FACED WITH PROBLEMS, LIKE MANY OTHER NATIONS, THAT HAVE ACCOMPANIED THE PROFOUND TRANSFORMATIONS IN SEXUAL ATTITUDES AMONG THE YOUNG GENERATION OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES.

THE ASSAULT ON THE TABOOS OF THE PAST BEGAN IN 1965 WITH AN ARTICLE ON CONTRACEPTION IN CUBA'S LEADING NEWSPAPERS. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO DR. CELESTINNO ALVAREI LAJONCHERE, A RENOWNED GYNOCOLOGIST AND CUBA'S LEADING EXPERT ON SEXUAL EDUCATION, A BATTLE WAS GOING ON WITHIN THE NATION'S NATIONALISED MEDICAL PROFESSION ON THE QUESTION OF EASY ACCESS ABORTIONS.

IN 1969 MAASTERS AND JOHNSON'S +HUMAN SEXUAL RESPONSE+ WAS REPRINTED IN SPANISH AND DISTRIBUTED TO QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS. IN DECEMBER 1974 CUBAN LEADER FIDEL CASTRO CALLED FOR OPEN WAR AGAINST +OLD HABITS, OLD MENTALITIES AND OLD PREJUDICES,+ AT THE CONGRESS OF THE CUBAN WOMEN'S FEDERATION.
==MORE LEM/SYL1604