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DIR:AM-CASTRO

PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO

HAVANA, MAY 3, REUTER - PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER LUIS ALVA CASTRO MET WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO LAST NIGHT AND RELAYED "CORDIAL GREETINGS" FRIN DERUVIAN PRESIDENT, ALAN GARCIA, GRANMA REPORTED TODAY.

GRANMA SAID THE TWO STATESMEN DISCUSSED THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION AS WELL AS BILATERIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

THE VISIT OF THE PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER WHICH BEGAN ARIL 30 IS VIEWED HERE AS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE STEADILY IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CUBA.

RELATIONS BETEEN THE TWO NATIONS WERE RESTORED TO AN AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL LAST WEEK AFTER SIX YEARS AT THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRE LEVEL. THE WORSENNG OF RELATIONS GREW OUT OF THE EVENTS IN 1980 WHEN OVER 10,000 CUBAN SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN HAVANA. THIS IN TURN TRIGGERED THE MARIEL BOTATLIFT DURING WHICH 125,000 CUBANS WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CUBA IN SMALL BOATS WHICH CAME FROM FLORIDA TO PICK THEM UP.

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS HERE SAID THAT AMONG THE MAJOR POINTS OF DISUCSSION BETWEEN THE DELEGATION LED BY THE PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE CUBANS WERE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SIGUATION AND THE FOREIGN DEBT OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. BOTH NATIONS STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONTADORA GROUP INITIATIVE FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND BOTH HAVE SAID THAT CREDITOR NATIONS MUST MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ON THE FOREIGN DEBT.

A WEEK AGO CUBA TOLD A MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL BANKERS HERE IN HAVANA THAT IT WANTS A TWO YEAR MORITORIUM ON THE REPAYMENT OF ITS HARD CURRENCY MEDIUM AND LONG TERM FOREIGN DEBTS.

ALVA CASTRO IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE CUBA TOMORROW.

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