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1300:heart transplant
first cuban transplant patient ready to return to work:
havana, jan 26, reuter -- only a month and a half after he underwent cuba's first heartplant operation, jorge hernandez announced that he will return to work as chief of quality control at a cigar factory here, the newpaper +trabajadores+ reported today.

hernandez, who has gainted great notoriety in cuba, told workers at the factory that he no longer required the services of a nurse.

the transplant was performed by an all-cuban team of physciaiscia on decemcer 9 at the ultra-modern +central havana hospital+.

hernandez said he had been visited by cuban president fidel castro while still a patient at the hospital. castro told him: +we thank you for the opportunity you have given us to demonstrate cuba's advances in medical science.+

great emphasis has been placed on hernandez psychological state and physical conditioning. only days after the operation he began receiving family visits. a week after the transplant he was moved from intensive care to a room from which he could watch ships and cars along havana's bayshore drive. on the same day he began daily physical therapy by pedaling an exercise bakelke for fifteeen minutes.

periodic biopsies in which specimens are removed from the wall of his heart have indicated that there has been no signs of tissue rejection.

the psychologist who washas been part of the post-peroperatory team told workers at the cigar factory that they should try to help hernandez avoid stressful situations. she announced that he would work mornings and recieve physical therapy during the afternoon hours. she said that if everthing goes according to expectations,hernandez should be ready to work full-time within six months.

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