

OCTOBER 18, 1974

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Reception at Palacio de la Revolucion in honor of the XXV General
Council Meeting of the WFTU.

Fidel takes his usual journey around the huge hall walking between lines of guests, all pushing in to close his path and being nudged back by preoccupied and highly serious security people - especially the journalists.

Some follow along the outside fringes of the line hoping to get a chance to speak to Fidel about some special program - some cut in front of him, past the security men like one Asian delegate whose companion translates for him in a very difficult to understand English.

Fidel ~~stops~~ stops before the ~~group~~ a group of Jamaican visitors to Cuba - He says: "Ah, you're the Jamaicans. I can tell by your clothes - very pretty indeed". ~~Then~~ As he begins to shake hands with one ample sized Jamaican woman, she bends forward and he responds by kissing her on the cheek. He also kisses the other four women of the delegation and gives the men handshakes.

Castro ~~xxxxi~~ conveys a sense of inner, nervous intensity. But his external movement are highly ~~unbubbly~~ disciplined. He holds a "cigarrillo" between the index and middle finger and during his "stay" with the Jamaicans never puts it in his mouth.

He asks one of the Jamaicans if the rise in petroleum prices affect them much. The Jamaican, Benjamin Clare, vicepresident of the Jamaican Senates ~~XXXXXX~~ answers in English. Castro says ~~ixghibix~~ ~~ix~~ says in Spanish, laughing and making the others laugh: "I understand English but I don't speak it - I get stage fright."

Castro then turns to the Mayor of Kingston, Roy McCann, a man in his mid thirties. "Do you have your water problem licked" he asks through his diminutive female translator. The Mayor begins to give an equivocal answer and Fidel interrupts: "Don't worry - we haven't either. There is great waste of ~~waxix~~ water - through broken pipes and through the ~~mxxx~~ overuse by the people. That's why we have decided to put meters in the houses again. We are going to charge something for water so people won't waste it."

Castro then asks if it rained much this year in Jamaica. Cuba had suffered a serious drought in 1973 and in the first half of 1974. The Jamaicans answer in unison: Yes, there was quite a bit of rain. "Ah, then" Castro says, "then you kept it all to yourself. One of the women says earnestly: "You didn't tell us you needed it."

Later I take to Roy McGann, and he turns out to be a relative of Keeble McFarland of CBC in Toronto.

He tells me that there should be some kind of air link soon between Cuba and Jamaica - by Air Jamaica - that will either go to Canada or to other Caribbean islands.

Later Fidel stops in front of four attractive Cuban women - You're Peruvians, he says. I can tell by your dress - I picked out the Jamaicans too. After exchanging small talk with the young women and asking them about themselves he discovers that one of them has a tiny Phillips memo recorder. "That's what created problems for Nixon" he said and as he continued talking to the others he stole looks at the girl with the recorder, perhaps trying to size her up. He then turned to her and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ found out that she was a housewife with four kids. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Pot Pouri Economico

A new factory with Japanese equipment is scheduled to be completed early in 1975. It will produce 1.5 volt dry cells ~~for~~ of distinct sizes. At full production it will produce 30 million a year.

Efficiency has allowed Cuba to project a diminution of manpower in the sugar mills of Cuba during the 1974-1975 harvest. - 92,000 as compared with well over 100,000 during the last harvest.

President Oswaldo Dorticos of Cuba has said that the drought earlier in 1974 might adversely effect sugar production in Cuba. He called on Cuban workers however to overcome the effects of the drought pointing out that with Cuba at around 40 cents a pound on the world market, Cuba stands to gain by selling more.

Cuba recently sent the first ship loaded with sugar to Portugal.

Twelve tankers for transporting petroleum and its derivatives are being built for Cuba in foreign countries. Three of these, more than 10,000 tons each, are being built by Marine Industries Limited, Sorel, Quebec. Before the revolution in 1958, the capacity of tankers ~~xxx~~ under Cuba flag amounted to was 150,000 cubic feet; at present it is 2 million cubic feet and

Workers in every branch of Cuban industry are discussing the economic plans for 1975 with an eye to promulgating Cuba's first long term economic plan.

Sixty locomotives were recently acquired from the USSR by Cuba. The first four have already arrived. They are of 1000 horsepower each.

Six dairy products complexes are being built in Cuba: three pasturizing ~~xxx~~ plants; one ice cream factory, a dairy product complex in the Havana East and enlargement of a big pasturizing plant Aljibe in Havana. One of the new pasturizing plants will have a capacity of 200,000 liters of milk a day and 40,000 liters of yoghurt.. The ice cream plants will turn out 20,000 gallons a day, the cheese plant 3350 kg a day (both in LV province). The pasturizing plant Aljibe will elevate production from 96,000 to 150,000 liters of milk a day

Cuba has ordered the biggest cargo ships of her fleet from the Japanese shipyards ~~xx~~ Ambos - one 27,000 and the other 22,500 tons. One will be called Salvador Allende in favor of and other XIII Congress of CTC

Interview . Havana Libre Hotel . January 29, 1975
with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (shortly before
departing from Cuba after four day visit)

We ~~xx~~ (Trudeau and Castro) made lengthy attempts to
convince each other on Angola. Castro has obviously thought
through his Angolan policy very carefully. We agreed to
disagree. He showed that he has not ~~only~~ short term view
of the Angolan situation but also a long term view

Castro has assessed the leaders and policies of the Middle
East and Africa very profoundly. He did not talk like a fanatic
but rather as a very practical man, within his ideology, almost
a pragmatist. For instance, when he spoke about South Africa
he said that South Africa must seek, sooner or later, a modus
~~xxx~~ vivendi with blacks and he seemed to ~~fx~~ be interested in
a practical solution for everyone - blacks and whites.
I repeat, I found Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Fidel very
realistic

I went skin diving with Castro and found that he is,
in spite of his ~~xxxx~~ inveterate smoking of cigars, in
very good shape. He dove down 30 or 40 feet, took a good
look around and came up ready to go again. He is not a man
who wastes energy...he is very cool under pressure.

Castro also explained how Cubans are helping the less
fortunate nations in other parts of the world in technical
and other ways.

Trudeau was asked is he was giving Canada a pro-Communist
policy. Won't the US be mistrustful of the fact that you came
to Cuba...

Trudeau answered that Kissinger and Ford has visited
Peking and Moscow in the interests of détente and in the
same way, he is visiting Cuba, hoping to better the
international~~xxxxxx~~ political climate. "Our party ~~as~~ course
is more advance on this score but the others will see it
~~xxx~~ our way sooner or later"

News Conference ...Canadian Ambassadors Residence - Havana
January 26, 1976 Fidel Castro

How do you interpret Watergate and Vietnam?

Siding with South Africa is really madness for the U.S... it tends to create enemies between US and Black Africa. Everyone knows that the people of Black Africa hate Apartheid. Anything that smells of working with South Africa is bad for the prestige of the U.S.

MPLA doesn't harbor hostility towards the U.S. They haven't done anything against U.S. This hostility of U.S. towards them is a mistake. Congress understands this and it is a more intelligent policy than that of Mr. Ford. Even the CIA was against intervention in Angola and the African Department of the State Dept. didn't want involvement. This policy had opposition within State Department. Its logical that it has opposition within the Congress.

Would you help other independence struggles in the world or is Angola special?

We don't make a secret of helping independence struggles but Angola was a special case because of South African intervention and CIA help. It was a war prepared clandestinely against them and we had to help when called upon by Neto

Do you expect any serious fighting against South Africa and have you sent pilots to Angola?

I can't answer in detail...there's such a thing as discretion. We sent what was necessary. The MPLA has the means of fighting the enemy on Angolan territory no matter how might it may be.

Does this mean that you do not expect to send further support or troops?

It all depends...we hope there is no necessity.

Are you satisfied with what your troops are doing?

I believe, in the first place that the people of Angola are responding very well. Angolan fighters and Cubans are fulfilling their duty efficiently.

Are Cubans backing your governments Angolan policy?

I should say that if we asked for volunteers, there would be hundreds of thousands of Cubans who would be willing to go to Angola.

How many troops do you have there?

That's restricted information.

CHINA Interrogado sobre la condena antichina contenida en el documento final de la primera reunion de partidos comunistas latinoamericanos, el dijo que esa condena era correcta y justa. Se le preguntó que china y esos dos regimenes que mantienen relaciones con chile, son países amigos de fidel respondió que son amigos pero no iguales. "Si dos países son iguales ante un tercero, son desiguales entre sí", afirmó el primer ministro cubano.

castro dijo que se había escandalizado hoy al leer un cable en el que reseñaba una comida entre el embajador de china en santiago de chile y presidente pinochet. "pinochet se aprovecha de esa amistad china para sus propios fines", afirmó castro.

dijo fidel que trinidad tobago y cuba han propuesto que la primera reunion del comite de la CEPAL sobre el caribe se reúna en septiembre proximo en cuba.