RR-88-1 1988

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
:CUBA-DEFENCE
HOLIDAY IN HAVANA MONDAY FOR MILITARY PARADE AND POLITICAL RALLY:
HAVANA, DEC 3, REUTER - HAVANA'S WORKERS AND STUDENTS WILL GET A DAY OFF MONDAY IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN A MILITARY PARADE AND A MASS POLITICAL RALLY IN REVOLUTION SQUARE.

THE DECREE PROCLAMING THE HOLIDAY WAS PUBLISHED IN SATURDAY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, GRANMA, BUT MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER ARMED PEOPLE'S MILITIA HAVE BEEN PRACITCING FOR THE PARADE FOR MONTHS.

AN ESTIMATED HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE, INCLUDING UNITS OF THE REGULAR ARMED FORCE, THE PEOPLE'S MILITIA AND CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATIONS.

A CUBAN OFFICIAL SOURCE SAID IT IS LIKELY THAT CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO WILL ADDRESS THE MASS MEETING IN REVOLUTION SQAURE WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE PARADE.

THE PARADE AND MASS MEETING WERE ORIGNALLY SCHEDULED FOR LAST FRIDAY BUT WERE POSTPONED WHEN CASTRO FLEW TO MEXICO CITY FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW MEXICAN PRESIDENT.

THE MASS MEETING WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION OF UNITY BEHIND THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT ONLY FOUR DAYS BEFORE SOVIET LEADER, MIKHAIL GORBACHEV WILL ARRIVE IN CUBA FOR A THREE DAY VISIT, A WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAID.

DURING THE MEETING, THE CITY OF HAVANA WHICH HAS A POPBULATION OF TWO MILLION WILL BE DECLARED +COMBAT READY+ (LIST PARA LA DEFENSA)

THE TITLE +COMBAT READY+ MEANS THAT THE ARMED POPULAR MILITIA AND THE CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CAPITAL HAVE REACHED A HIGH DEGREE OF READINESS TO CONFRONT AN ENEMY.

CASTRO SAID IN A SPEECH LAST WEEK THAT CUBA MUST MAINTAIN STRONG DEFENCES +BECAUSE WE HAVE A POWERFUL ENEMY -YANKEE IMPERIALISM - WITH ITS CYNICISM, PERFIDY AND OPPORTUNISM.+

CASTRO HAS DECLARED REPEATEDLY THAT IF AN INVASION COMES THE CUBANS WILL FIGHT BACK +IN A WAR OF ALL THE PEOPLE.+

CUBA'S ARMED, VOLUNTEER PEOPLE'S MILITIA HAS MORE THAN A MILLION MEMBERS WHO RECEIVE COMBAT TRAINING OSN WEEKENDS.
==REUTER/LEM
NNNNNN