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FIDEL CASTRO AND YOUNG CREATIVE ARTISTS IN FREE-WHEELING DIALOGUE

HAVANA, MARCH 13, REUTER - CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO TOOK PART IN AN OPEN-ENDED DIALOGUE SATURDAY WITH HUNDREDS OF FLEDGLING WRITERS, DANCERS, ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS WHO VOICED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION BUT COMPLAINED THAT MANY DOORS ARE SHUT TO THEM UNDER THE PRESENT METHODS OF CONTRACTING AND THAT MANY OLDER, MEDIOCRE PROFESSIONALS ARE PROTECTED IN THEIR JOBS BY AN INADEQUATE SYSTEM OF EVALUATION.

THE DIALOGUE, REPORTED IN SUNDAY'S YOUTH NEWSPAPER, JUVENTUD REBELDE, TOOK PLACE DURING A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION +HERMANOS SAIZ+, AN ORGANISATION THAT WAS FOUNDED EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO BY CUBA'S YOUNGEST GENERATION OF CREATIVE ARTISTS.

DURING THE FREE-WHEELING DIALOGUE, THERE WERE STRONG CRITICISMS OF THE STUDY PROGRAMMES OF THE NATION'S HIGHER INSTITUTE OF ART (INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE ARTE), THE ISLAND'S TOP TRAING CENTRE FOR THE DANCE, THEATRE AND THE VISUAL ARTS.

THE SIXTY-ONE YEAR OLD CUBAN LEADER SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE +WE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE A BETTER PROGRAMME OF AESTHETIC EDUCATION AND A BETTER CULTURAL POLICY.+ CASTRO SAID +THIS IS THE TERRAIN IN WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS HAS ENCOUNTERED GREAT DIFFICULTYR

THE WHITE-BEARDED LEADER, DRESSED IN HIS ACCUSTOMED MILITARY UNIFORM, SAID +TODAY WE ARE NOT GOING TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO ALL OF THE PROBLEMS.+ HE ADDED, +WE CAME TO HEAR THE TRUTHS YOU EXPRESS WITH THE MODEST GOAL OF LEARNING.+

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A MONTH DURING A PUBLIC APPEARANCE, THE CUBAN LEADER REPLIED TO THE ASSERTIONOF SEVERAL NON-CUBAN WRITERS THAT BECAUSE OF THE GREAT POWER HE WIELDS HE IS A LONELY MAN. HE SAID: +I DON'T KNOW LONELINESS BECAUSE WHEN ONE PARTICIPATES WITH HIS PEOPLE, ONE DOES NOT FEEL ALONE.+ +THIS IS THE ANTITHESIS OF LONELINESS,+ CASTRO SAID AND ADDED, +I FEEL LIKE THE MOST ACCOMPANIED MAN IN THE WORLD.+

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