:AM-CUBA-RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS File Reuter

CUBAN-LATIN AMERICAN RIGHTS PROPOSAL AT GENEVA +PREEMPTIVE STRIKE+

BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, MAR 10, REUTER -- +THE LATIN AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE CUBAN RESOLUTION BEFORE THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA IS A DEMONSTRATION OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY AND IS, IN EFFECT, A DECLARATION THAT LATIN AMERICA CAN HANDLE ITS OWN PROBLEMS WITHOUT IMPOSITION FROM THE UNITED STATES.+ JOSE VIERA, CUBAN VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TOLD REUTER WEDNESDAY NIGHT. 1988 RR-88-10

THE LATIN AMERICAN PROPOSAL WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY IN GENEVA BACKS A CUBAN INVITATION TO THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE U.N HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ALIONE SENE OF SENEGAL, AND FIVE OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS TO VISIT HAVANA TO LOOK INTO THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE ISLAND.

THE NEW PROPOSAL WAS AIMED AT BLOCKING PASSAGE OF A UNITED STATES RESOLUTION WHICH VIERA SAID +IS MORE IN THE NATURE OF A POLITICAL VENDETTA THAN A TRUE INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS.+

A LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN HAVANA CALLED THE CUBAN INITIATIVE AND THE LATIN AMERICAN PROPOSAL +A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE BY CUBA AND THOSE WHO FEEL THEY ARE BEING COERCED BY THE UNITED STATES.+

THE U.S. RESOLUTION VOICES CONCERN ABOUT REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA, REQUESTS ACCESS BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO ALL CUBAN PRISONS AND URGES CONSIDERATION OF THE CUBAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AT NEXT YEARS MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN AN INTERVIEW LAST MONTH WITH A U.S. TLEVISION NETWORK, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO ANNOUNCED HE HAS NO OBJECTION A VISIT TO CUBA BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS TO INSPECT CUBAN JAILS AND INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT CUBA WOLD NEVER ACCEED TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE TO FORCE IT TO ACCEPT INSPECTION.

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VIERA SAID THAT THE U.S. RESOLUTION +IS OBJECTIONABLE BECAUSE IT PREJUDGES CUBA IN THE MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.+ +ANYBODY WHO HAS LISTENED TO THE SPEECHES OF VERNON WALTERS (U.S. ENVOY TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHO IS NOW IN GENEVA); OR HAS READ THE HANDOUTS OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWS THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF CONDEMING CUBA FOR VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS;+ HE SAID.

THE THEME OF WASHINGTON'S OBSESSION WITH CONDEMING CUBA HAS BEEN REPEATED AGAIN IN THE CUBAN PRESS AND ON CUBAN RADIO AND TELEVISION OVER RECENT WEEKS.

A FRONT PAGE HEADLINE IN THURSDAY MORNINGS GRANMA QUOTES CUBA'S SHARP-TONGUED AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS; RAUL ROA; AS SAYING IN GENEVA: +BEFORE SINKING INTO THE MANURE OF HISTORY; REAGAN IS BENT ON PUTTING THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AT THE BENCH OF THE ACCUSED.+ (ANTES DE HUNDIRSE EN EL ESTERCOL DE LA HISTORIA; REAGAN SE HA EMPENADO EN SENTAR A LA REVOLUCION CUBANA EN EL BANQUILLO DE LOS ACUSADOS.)

ROA IS ALSO QHOTED IN THE CUBAN PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE CUBAN INIATIVE TO INVITE THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMSSION TO CUBA +DIDN'T KNOCK OUT THE UNITED STATES BUT IT DELIVERED A STRAIGHT JAB TO THE JAW THAT HURT.+ (NO DEJA FUERA DE COMBATE A ESTADOS UNIDOS PERO LE APLICO UN RECTO A LA MANDIBULA QUE AUN DUELE)

THE CUBAN MASS MEDIA HAS ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF USING STRONG PRESSURES AND EVEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC THREATS AGAINST WESTERN EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS IN ORDER TO COERCE THEM INTO VOTING FOR THE U.S.SPONSORED CUBAN RESOLUTION. THE EUROPEAN NATIONS MENTIONED ARE SPAIN; BELGIUM; GREAT BRITAIN; WEST GERMANY; IRELAND; NORWAY AND PORTUGAL.

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ROA WAS REPORTED IN THE CUBAN MEDIA OF HAVING ACCUSED SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS OF +OPENLY SWALLOWING THEIR PRIDE AND INCLUDING LITTLE PARAGRAPHS AGAINST CUBA IN THEIR SPEECHES BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.+

DURING RECENT MONTHS THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN UNUSUAL TOLERANCE TOWARD DISSIDENTS WITHIN CUBA WHO ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS.

SEVERAL SELF-PROCLAIMED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN VISITING FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND PRESS AGENCIES WITH PRESS RELEASES AND INFORMATION BULLETINS. MEMBERS OF THESE COMMITTEES HAVE ALSO BEEN ALLOWED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS.

SINCE THE BEGINNKNG OF THIS YEAR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED MANY VISITING FOREIGN GROUPS TO GO TO CUBAN PRISONS AND, IN SOME CASES, TO TALK WITH THE PRISONERS.

IN GENEVA, THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT CALLED U.S. ENVOY'S VERNON WALTER'S CHARGE THAT THERE ARE 15,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBAN JAILS +A LIE+. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THERE ARE NOW 458 +COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PRISONERS+ IN CUBAN JAILS AND THAT SINCE 1963 THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN FREED UNDER REHABILIATION PLANS AND ARE NOW WORKING AND LEADING NORMAL LIVES.

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