1988 RR-88-11

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
:AM-CUBA-WEAPONS/SOVIETS
CASTRO INAUGRATES CUBA'S FIRST WEAPONS FACTORY: PRAISES SOVIETS:
HAVANA, NOVEMBER 28, REUTER - WITH A VISIT TO CUBA BY SOVIET LEADER, MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, ONLY TEN DAYS AWAY, CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO PRAISED SOVIET AID TO HIS COUNTRY AS HE INAUGURATED THE ISLAND'S FIRST FACTORY FOR MANUFACTURING AUTOMATIC RIFLES AND OTHER LIGHT WEAPONS.

THE INAUGRUATION CEREMONIES WHICH TOOK PLACE ON SUNDAY WERE REPORTED ON MONDAY BY THE CUBAN NEWS AGENCY, AIN.

THE FACTORY, WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE CATTLE AND SUGAR-CANE PRODUCING PROVINCE OF CAMAGUEY IN EASTERN CUBA, HAS A PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF 100,000 AUTOMATIC RIFLES A YEAR IN A SINGLE DAILY SHIFT, AIN SAID.
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THE SIXTY-TWO YEAR OLD CUBAN LEADER SAID THAT THE WEAPONS WILL BE COMPLETELY MANUFACTURED IN CUBA BUT THAT THE MACHINERY AND TECHNICAL KNOWHOW WERE PART OF +THE GENEROUS AID OF THE SOVIET UNION.+

CASTRO SAID THAT +THE WARLIKE POLICY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT+ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT DECADE FORCED CUBA TO BUILD UP ITS DEFENSES AND TO ORGANIZE A VOLUNTEER, PEOPLE'S ARMED MILITIA WHICH NOW NUMBERS MORE THAN ONE MILLION MEN AND WOMEN.

HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION INCREASED ITS SHIPMENT OF ARMS BUT THAT MORE WERE NEEDED +AND IT WAS NECESSARY TO LAUNCH A PROJECT FOR MAKING OUR OWN WEAPONS.+

THE WHITE-BEARDED CUBAN LEADER PRAISED THE +SELFLESS AID+ OF THE SOVIET UNION AND SINGLED OUT AS EXAMPLES THE NEW FACTORY AND CUBA'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW FACTORY, COLONEL LUIS PEREZ, SAID DURING THE OPENING CEREMONES THAT THE PLANT'S MACHINERY IS ULTRA-MODERN AND INCLUDES ALMOST FIFTY PROGRAMMABLE, COMPUTERIZED MACHINE-TOOLS.
==REUTER/LEM
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