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:HUMAN RIGHTS
CUBAN BLASTS TOP U.S. REP TO U.N HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HAVANA, JAN 17, REUTER -- CUBA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN GENEVA, CARLOS LECHUGA, CHARGED THAT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN EXILE,ARMANDO VALLADARES, AS CHIEF OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION +RAISES AN ETHICAL QUESTION.+

LECHUGA'S STATEMENT WAS PUBLISHED HERE SUNDAY IN THE OFFICIAL YOUTH NEWSPAPER, JUVENTUD REBELDE WHICH QUOTED FROMA PRENSA LATINA DISPATCH DATELINED GENEVA.

VALLADARES, NOW A U.S. CITIZEN, SPENT TWENTY TWO YEARS IN CUBAN JAILS AFTER HE WAS CONVICTED IN 1960 OF BEING PART OF A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP THAT SET OFF BOMBS IN HAVANA. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO CHARGED THAT VALLADARES HAD BEEN A MINOR MEMBER OF THE POLICE FORCE IN HAVANA DURING THE REGIME OF CUBAN DICTATOR FULGENCIO BATISTA WHICH WAS OVERTHROWN BY CASTRO'S REBEL ARMY IN JANUARY 1959.

LECHUGA SAID THAT VALLADRES ROLE AS CHIEF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RAISED AN ETHICAL QUESTION BECAUSE HE IS A CONVICTED TERRORIST.

FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL AND DEPARTURE FOR FRANCE IN OCTOBER 1982 VALLADRES WROTE A BOOK IN WHICH HE DENIED THAT HE HAD BEEN PART OF AN ANTI-CASTRO COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP AND THAT HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF BATISTA'S POLICE FORCE. HE ALSO ACCUSED CUBAN AUTHORITIES OF USING TORTURE AND OTHER FORMS OF BRUTALITY AGAINST POLICAL PRISONERS.

LAST WEDNESAY VALLADARES A CAMPAIGN IN GENEVA IN FAVOR OF CONDEMING CUBA AS A MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR AT THE YEARLY MEETING OF THE U.N HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WHICH WILL MEET THERE. LAST YEAR, DESPITE STRONG U.S. PRESSURE, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REFUSED TO CONDEMN CUBA ON THE SAME CHARGES.

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