RR-88-117

BC ISA LEN BAS FEA CAW
:CUBA-GRANDPARENT (EXPECT PIX)
HAVANA'S GRANDPARENTS PARADE. BACK CUBAN OLYMPIC GAMES DECISION
HAVANA, JAN 17, REUTER - MORE THAN EIGHTEEN THOUSAND HAVANAN
100K PART IN A FIVE KILOMETER +GIANT PARADE OF GRANDPARENTS+
SUNDAY AT THE END OF WHICH THEY SHOUTED THEIR APPROVAL OF CUBA'S
ECISION TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS SUMMER'S OLYMPIC GAMES IN
EOUL, SOUTH KOREA, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL UNREST THERE.
THE PARADE, HELD IN A FESTIVE MOOD, WAS PART OF A NATIONAL
FFORT TO ENCOURAGE ORGANIZED PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
MONG CUBA'S ELDERLY.
AT THE END OF THE PARADE AN OUTDOOR MEETING WAS HELD IN
EVOLUTION SQUARE WHERE THE GRANDPARENTS SHOUTED +SI+ WHEN
SKED BY MANUEL GONZALEZ GUERRA, THE PRESIDENT OF CUBA'S
LYMPIC COMMITTEE, IF THEY APPROVED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO
ASS UP THIS YEARS OLYMPIC GAMES.
MOST OF THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN SUNDAY'S PARADE BELONG TO
GRANDPARENTS' CLUBS+ (CIRCULOS DE ABUELOS) THAT HAVE BEEN
RGANIZED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IN ALL OF HAVANA'S 15
UNICIPAL DISTRICTS. THE CLUBS HOLD DAILY EXERCISE SESSIONS IN
UBLIC PARKS AND ORGANIZE GAMES, HIKES, MASSIVE BIRTHDAY PARTIE
ND THEATER OUTINGS FOR THE ELDERLY.
THE MARCHERS CARRIED BANNERS AND SANG SONGS. ONE LARGE
ANNER PROCLAINED: +RETURN TO YOUTH+. (RETURNO A LA JUVENTUD)
THE PARADE WAS LED BY GONZALEZ GUERRA WHO IS A SENIOR
ITIZEN AND A GRANDFATHER AND BY MIDDLE-AGED ALBERTO JUANTORENA
VICE-PRESIDENT OF CUBA'S NATIONAL SPORTS' INSTITUTE. JUANTORE
AS THE WINNER OF THE 400 AND 800 METER RUNNING EVENTS AT THE
76 OLYMPIC GAMES IN MONTREAL.
=REUTER/LEM 1350.
NNNN