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:CUBA-VEGETARIANS
GROUP WANTS TO ESTABLISH VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT IN CUBA:
HAVANA, OCT 14, REUTER - A SMALL GROUP OF CUBAN VEGETARIANS CHARGED THEY HAVE BEEN MET BY OFFICIAL INDIFFERENCE ON THEIR PLAN TO OPEN CUBA'S FIRST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT BUT THEY THINK PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA.

MERCEDES PAIS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE 'NATURISTS', A VEGETARIAN ASSOCIATION FOUNDED IN 1936 SAID SHE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT CASTRO ABOUT THE PROJECT +BECAUSE WE THINK HE WOULD UNDERSTAND.+

SHE SAID THAT MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIALS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE IDEA.

IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO CASTRO'S SPECIAL ADVISORY SUPPORT GROUP LAST MARCH, THE ORGANIZATION PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESTAURANT UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURISTS.

THE LETTER SAID: +IN ANY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD, EXCEPT CUBA -TO OUR SHAME, YOU CAN FIND VEGETARIAN RESTAURANTS AND CAFETERIAS+.. IT ADDED THAT VEGETARIAN TOURISTS COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF SUCH RESTAURANTS.

IN RECENT MONTHS CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO HAS MADE PUBLISHED REMARKS ENCOURAGING CUBANS TO EAT MORE VEGETABLES. EARLIER THIS YEAR, IN A TELEVISED TALK WITH THE COOK OF A CONSTRUCTION GANG, CASTRO GAVE HIS RECIPE FOR VEGETABLE SOUP +WHICH HAS ALL KINDS IN IT, EVEN LETTUCE.+

PAIS SAID THAT THE RESTAURANT WOULD BE A COOPERATIVE WITH PROFITS GOING TO PAY EMPLOYEES, BUY PRODUCTS AND ESTABLISH OTHER VEGETARIAN RESTAURANTS IN CUBA.

THE THIRTY-THREE YEAR OLD WOMEN HOLDS A BLACK BELT FOR KARATE AND WAS A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER. FIVE YEARS AGO SHE DECIDED TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO PROSELYTIZING VEGETARIANISM, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PACIFISM..
==REUTER/LEM
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