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RNR 113
AM-CUBA-COLUMBUS (EXPECT PIX)
SPANISH SHIP FOLLOWS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ROUTE TO AMERICA
HAVANA, OCT 2, REUTER - A SPANISH SHIP RETRACING THE ROUTE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS TOOK TO AMERICA SOME 508 YEARS AGO ARRIVED IN CUBA ON SUNDAY CARRYING 500 SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDENTS.

THE VOYAGE FROM HUELVA, SPAIN, ABOARD GUANAHANI IS PART OF THE +AVENTURA 92+ PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE THE NEARING QUINCENTENARY OF COLUMBUS'S ARRIVAL IN THE NEW WORLD IN 1492.

THE SHIP WAS MET IN HAVANA BAY BY TUGS WAVING FLAGS, AND SOUNDING HORNS AND WHISTLES.

THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, A HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT DELEGATION AND HUNDREDS OF CUBAN STUDENTS WELCOMED THE VISITORS, WHO PARADED TO THE PIER WHERE SPANIARDS FOUNDED THE CITY OF HAVANA IN THE EARLY 16TH CENTURY.

SOME VISITING STUDENTS LAID WREATHS AT THE FOOT OF A STATUE OF COLUMBUS IN THE COURTYARD OF A MUSEUM WHERE THE FORMER SPANISH CAPTAIN-GENERAL OF HAVANA USED TO LIVE.

ORGANIZERS SAID THE SHIP WAS FOLLOWING THE ROUTE OF COLUMBUS'S SECOND VOYAGE.

THE SHIP LEFT SPAIN ON SEPT. 17 AND STOPPED IN THE CANARY ISLANDS, PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BEFORE ARRIVING IN CUBA. IT WILL STOP OVER IN LISBON ON ITS WAY BACK SPAIN, WHERE IT WILL DOCK IN CADIZ ON OCT. 14 TO CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY.

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