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AM-COMMUNITY-CUBA
EC ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CUBA
BRUSSELS, SEPT 29, REUTER - CUBA HAS BECOME THE FIRST NON-EUROPEAN MEMBER OF THE SOVIET-LED COMECON TRADE BLOC TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE EC'S EXECUTIVE COMMISSION SAID ON THURSDAY.
HAVANA APPLIED FOR RELATIONS IN JUNE AND THE 12-NATION GROUP ACCEPTED THE REQUEST LATE ON WEDNESDAY.
+IT'S A FACT SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING,+ A COMMISSION SPOKESWOMAN SAID.
THE COMMUNITY AND COMECON -- WHICH INCLUDES MOSCOW'S SIX WARSAW PACT ALLIES AS WELL AS CUBA, VIETNAM AND MONGOLIA -- SIGNED A DECLARATION OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION IN JUNE AFTER IGNORING EACH OTHER FOR 30 YEARS.
DIPLOMATIC TIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH ALL THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF COMECON EXCEPT ROMANIA.
ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION, A REQUEST FROM VIETNAM IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. NO SIMILAR APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM MONGOLIA.
THE SPOKESWOMAN SAID HAVANA HAD SO FAR NOT ASKED FOR A TRADE OR COOPERATION AGREEMENT AS MOST OF ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAD DONE.
COMMUNITY TRADE WITH CUBA HAS BEEN RECEDING OVER RECENT YEARS. IN 1987, CUBAN IMPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY TOTALLED 8476 MILLION WHILE CUBAN EXPORTS TO THE EC CAME TO 8322 MILLION.
REUTER 1729
