RR-88-35 1984

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
AM-CUBA-RIGHTS
UN HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION MEETS CASTRO: ENDS 10-DAY STAY IN CUBA:
HAVANA, SEPT 26, REUTER - A SIX-MEMBER U.N HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION WHICH CARRIED ON A TEN DAY INVESTIGATION IN CUBA MET WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO BEFORE LEAVING THE ISLAND SUNDAY NIGHT, THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER GRANMA REPORTED MONDAY.

GRANNA SAID THAT PRESIDENT CASTRO TOLD THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION THAT HE WAS SATIFIED THAT THEY COULD OBSERVE THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT FIRST HAND.

THE MISSION WAS SENT TO CUBA BY THE GENVA-BASED U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT THE INVITATION OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

BEFORE DEPARTING, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, AMBASSADOR ALIOUNE SENE OF SENEGAL, WHO HEADED THE MISSION TO CUBA SAID THAT THEY HAD +RECEIVED ALL THE USEFUL AND NECESSARY ANSWERS+ TO THEIR QUESTIONS CONCERNING CHARGES OF MISTREATMENT OF CUBAN CITIZENS, THE DEATH PENALITY AND JURIDICAL MATTERS IN CUBA.

HE SAID THAT THEY HAD MET WITH 86 CUBANS WHO COMPLAINED OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SOME OF THEM REPRESNTATIVES OF GROUPDS SUCH AS THE CUBAN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COMMITTEE IS TOLERATED BUT NOT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED.

AMBASSADOR SENE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS SOME 1532 PERSONS WHO HAD REQUESTED INTERVIEWS WITH THE MISSION COULD NOT BE RECEIVED.

THE MISSION ALSO VISRITED SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS AND TALKED TO NUMEROUS CUBAN OFFICIAL AND PRO-REVOLUTIONARY INTELECTUALS AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF CUBAN CHURCH ORGANISATIONS.

SENE SAID THAT +THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT.+ HE SAID THAT CUBAN AUTHORITES +FREQUENTLY REMINDED US IN THEIR EXPLANATIONS OF THE PAST STRUGGLE OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE.+

THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REFUSED TO ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF ITS INTERVIEWS OR ITS CONCLUSIONS. HE TOLD REPORTERS A FULL TREATMENT OF THE SITUATION IN CUBA WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION WHEN IT MEETS IN GENEVA NEXT FEBRUARY.

==REUTER/LEM
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