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RNR 152
AM-OLYMPICS-CUBA
CASTRO CHIDES OTHER COMMUNIST NATIONS FOR ATTENDING OLYMPICS
HAVANA, SEPT 24, REUTER - CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO, ATTACKING THE CHOICE OF SOUTH KOREA AS THE SITE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, DEFENDED CUBA'S DECISION TO STAY AWAY AND CHIDED OTHER COMMUNIST-BLOC NATIONS FOR ATTENDING.

+I SAY IT IS VERY UGLY THAT OTHER SOCIALIST NATIONS HAVE GONE TO SEOUL,+ CASTRO SAID ON FRIDAY AT A CEREMONY HONORING 173 CUBAN ATHLETES. +FRATERNAL FRIENDS DO NOT ABANDON EACH OTHER,+ HE ADDED.

CASTRO'S REMARKS WERE PUBLISHED IN SATURDAY'S EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER GRANMA.

+WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT BACK MEDALS BUT OUR HONOR WOULD HAVE SUFFERED,+ THE CUBAN LEADER SAID. CUBA IS +SOVEREIGN, VERY FREE AND NOT A SATELLITE.+

CASTRO RECALLED THAT CUBAN ATHLETES HAD ALSO STAYED AWAY FROM THE 1984 OLYMPICS IN LOS ANGELES IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND.

THE CUBAN LEADER CHARGED THAT SOUTH KOREA IS +ONE OF THE NATIONS WHERE THE MOST VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE EXISTS.+ HE SAID THAT THE GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED +UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE U.S NAVY, AIR FORCE AND ARMY AND MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REPRESSIVE POLICE.+

+THE LEAST THAT I CAN SAY,+ THE 61-YEAR OLD CASTRO SAID, +IS THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE CONSTITUTED AN HONOR TO PARTICIPATE IN OLYMPICS UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.+
REUTER 1925