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PRONEWSDESK, ONPASS BIZUNIT
EXHAVANA - RE YR REQUEST FOR INFO ON PERESTROIKA AND CORRUPTION:

CORRUPTION - IN GENERAL THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT GETS HIGH MARKS FOR THE PAUCITY OF CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACE. NOBODY HAS ACCUSED CASTRO OR OTHER HIGH LEADERS OF ENRICHING THEMSELVES BY PILFERING FROM THE GOVERNMENT COFFERS AS CUBAN DICTATOR FULGENCIO BATISTA AND MOST OF HIS HIGH ARMY OFFICERS AND CABINET MINISTERS DID BEFORE 1959.

VISITORS QUICKLY REALIZE HOW DIFFERENT THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE HERE IN CUBA FROM, LETS SAY, THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT THE AIRPORT IN MEXICO. IN FACT, THE MEXICAN +MORDIDA+ (BITE) - A SMALL OR BIG BRIBE TO ANYBODY FROM A POLICEMAN GIVING OUT A TICKET TO A HIGH OFFICIAL FROM WHOM YOU WANT A FAVOR, ARE NOT EVIDENT IN CUBA.

NEVERTHELESS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NOTORIOUS CASES OF CORRUPTION IN CUBA. THE MOST DRAMATIC WAS THAT OF LUIS ORLANDO DOMINGUEZ IN 1987. DOMINGUEZ, THE PRESIDENT OF CUBA'S CIVIL AERONAUTICS INSTITUE WAS ARRESTED AND SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS AND JAIL (THERE HAVE BEEN NO SHOOTINGS FOR CORRUPTION) FOR MISAPPROPIRATING SOME 350,000 OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

WHEN CUBAN PRESIDENT CASTRO SPOKE OF THE CASE IN SEPT 87 HE SEEMED PAINED AND ANGRY. DOMINGUEZ HAD BEEN HEAD OF THE UNION OF YOUNG COMMUNISTS UNTIL MAY 1982 WHEN CASTRO HANDPICKED HIM TO WORK IN HIS PERSONAL +SUPPORT GROUP+ BEFORE NAMING HIM HEAD OF THE CIVIL AERONATICS INSTITUE.

DOMINGUEZ' CRIME WAS THAT HE USED HIS AUTHORITY AND STATE FUNDS TO BUILD SEVERAL MANSIONS FOR HIMSELF, LAVISHILY EQUIP THEM AND SUPPLY HIS FAMILY MEMBERS WITH AUTOS AND OTHERS GOODIES.

DOMINGUEZ CASE INDICATED WAS CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES AND MANY CUBANS FELT HE WAS A KIND OF SCAPEGOAT INASMUCH AS OTHER TOP OFFICIALS ALSO LIVED IN MANSIONS AND ENJOYED CERTAIN PRIVILEGES. AND IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT MANY JOBS IN CUBA BRING THEIR PERKS FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTHORITIES RANGING FROM THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING CERTAIN THINGS OVERSEAS FOR OFFICIALS WHO TRAVEL TO THE CHANCE TO BRING HOME CHEESE FOR THE MANAGER OF A PIZZARIA.

CAST4RO HIMSELF HAS BLOWN THE WHISLTE ON OFFICIALS WHO HAVE USED GOVERNMENT BUILDING MATERIALS, CEMENT MIXERS AND CRANES FOR IMPROVING THEIR PRIVATE HOMES.

IN 1987 VIRTUALLY ALLL THE POLICEMEN OF HAVANA W4EERE REPLACED BY NEW AND YOUNGER MEN. ONE OF THE REASONS, ACCORDING TO SOME, IIS TH AT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CORRUPTION, SLIGHT BUT PERSISTENT EXISTED AMONG THE VETERAN POLICE. (OTHER REASONS IS THAT THE VETERANS WERE TO TOUGH AND THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THE POPULAR IMAGE OF THE POLICE HAD TO CHANGE - THE NEW ONES ARE AS POLITE AS THE LONDON

)TEHER COMMON AND HIGHLY EVIDENT TYPE OF CORRUPTION IN CUBA IS
E PILFERING OF GOVERNMENT OWNED MATERIALS AND THEN SELLING THEM
T THE BLACK MARKET. ONE CAN GET JUST ABOUT ANYTHING ON THE BLACK
ARKET (CARE PARTS, PAIN FOR HOMES ETC) ALTHOUGH IT IS ALMOST
IMOOSDIBLE TO GET THEM AT THE GOVERNMENT OWNED STORES (ALL STORES
ARE GOVERNMENT OWNED IN CUBA)

IN 1982 THERE WAS ALSO A BSEBALL SCANDAL IN CUBA. SEVENTEEN BASEBALL
PLAYERS AND COACHES WERE ARRESTED ALONG WITH DOZENS OF SMALL TIME
GAMBLERS FOR TAKINGPART IN ORGANIZED BETTING AND GAME FIXING. THE
BALL PLYAERS WERE EXPELLED FROM SPORTS FOR LIFE AND THE GAMBLERS
WERE SENT TO JAIL. THIS WAS A SHOCK TO CUBANS WHO PLACE HIGH VALUE
ON THE PURITY OF THEIR NON-COMMERCIAL, NON-PROFESSIONAL SP
SPORTS. RECOGNZING THE WIDESPREAD PRACTICE OF STEALING HGOVERNMENT

PROPERTY, FIDEL CASTRO THIS YEAR CALLED FOR TIGHTENING CONTROLS
IN ALL FACTORIES, WAREHOUSES AND FARMS ON ALL STATE OWNED PROPERTY.

--CORRECTION (PARA 3 SHOULD READ 350,000 DOLLARS)

----PERESTROKA - CUBA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY OF THE COM BLOC WHICH
REJECTS MARKET ORIENTED POLICY OF PERESTROIKA. FIDEL CASTRO
HAS SAID THAT CUBA WILL NOT OPEN THE WAY TO EXPERIMENTS IN FREE
ENTERPRISE NO MATTER HOW LIMTED THEY MAY BE. MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT
UNDER CUBAN CONDITIONS ALL MAJOR GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS MUST BE
CENTRALISED (GORBACHOV IS DECENTRALISING IN THIS RESPECT).
  WHILE INCENTIVE PAYMENT FOR ADDED PRODUCTIVITY IS ACCEPTABLE,
CUBA, AS IT DID IN THE SIXTIES, IS ENCOUNRAGING MEN AND WOMEN TO
CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIAL USEFUL PROJECTS WITH VOLUNTARY, UNPAID
LLABOUR.
  LAST JULY 26 IN HIS ANNUAL SPEECH SAID: CUBA WILL NEVER ADOPT
THE METHODS, STYLES, PHILOSOPHY OR IDEOSYNCRASY OF CAPITALISM.+
  CASTRO CLAIMS THAT DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES INAPPROACH, RELATIONS
WITH USSR ARE EXCELLENT. SAYS THAT CUBAN CONDITIONS ARE DIFFERENT
FROM USSR AND THAT +WE WILL CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO COPY IN A SERVILE
WAY RECPIES FOR ILLNESSES THAT WE DO NOT SUFFER.+ HE SAID HE WISHES
THE SOVIET UNION WELL BUT THAT CUBA WILL NOT FOLLOW ITS EXAMPLE.
  CASTRO REASONS THAT CUBA, ONLY 90 MILES FROM THE ENEMY (UNITED
STATES) MUST MAINTAIN ITS IDEOLOGICAL PURITY TO SURVIVE THE
ONSLAUGHTS OF CONSUMER SOCIETY INFLUENCE AND PROPAGANDA WHICH
WOULD WEAKEN THE CUBANS WILL TO RESIST.
  AT THE SAME TIME CASTRO HAS REJECTED ANY WEAKINGOF THE AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

HOPE THAT SATISFIES - CHEERS - LEM (HAVANA
==REUTER/LEM
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