1988 RR-88-8

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
:PM-CUBA-TANGO
:TANGO ENTHUSIASTS HOLD FIRST WORLD GARDELIAN CONGRESS:
BY LIONEL MARTIN
HAVANA, NOV 30, REUTER - UNDER THE SLOGAN, +HIS VOICE NEVER DIED+, ONE HUNDRED LOVERS OF THE TANGO FROM LATIN AMERICA ARE MEETING HERE AT THE FIRST WORLD GARDELIAN CONGRESS (PRIMER CONGRESO MUNDIAL GARDELIANO), NAMED AFTER THE LEGENDARY, ARGENTINIAN TANGO SINGER, CARLOS GARDEL, WHO DIED IN AN AIRPORT ACCIDENT IN COLOMBIA IN 1935.

GARDEL MADE ALMOST ONE THOUSAND RJECORDINGS ON WAXED RECORDS DURING HIS CAREER AND APPEARED IN NUMEROUS ARGENTINIAN AND SEVERAL HOLLYWOOD MOVIES.

+WE RALLY AROUND GARDEL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE TANGO FOR POSTERITY,+ VIRGILIO GONZALEI, THE CUBAN PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS' ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SAID.

+BEING A 'TANGUERO' - A LOVER OF THE TANGO - IS AN ACT OF FAITH, IT IS LIKE BELONGING TO A RELIGIOUS SECT,+ GONZALEZ SAID WITH PASSION. +WE ARE SMALL IN NUMBER BUT WE ARE SPREAD WIDELY AND ARE AN UNQUENSHIBLE FLAME,+ HE SAID.

IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONGRESSS ARE 'TANGUERYS'' FROM CUBA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, PUERTO RICO, VENEZUELA, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND BRAZIL. THE CONGRESS IS SPONSORED BY THE GARDELIAN FOUNDATION OF THE PLATA OF BUENOS AIRES (FUNDACION GARDELIANA DEL PLATA, BUENOS AIRES) AND THE TANGO ASSOCATION OF HAVANA.

THE CUBAN TOURIST ENTERPRISE, CUBATUR, HAS ALSO PLAYED A ROLE IN PROMOTING THE CONGRESS OVERSEAS AND OFFERING AN ECONOMICAL PACKAGE TOUR TO CUBA WHICH INCLUDED HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS AND MEALS.

MORE THAN A DOZEN RESEARCH PAPERS ON THE LIFE OF GARDEL ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS WHICH BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 27 AND ENDS DECEMBER 4.

A URUGUAYAN +TANGUERO+ REVIVED AN OLD POLEMIC BY ATTEMPTING TO PROVE THAT GARDEL WAS BORN IN URUGUAY RATHER THAN IN FRANCE. A CUBAN MUSICOLOGIST SHOWED MUSICAL PROOF THAT THE ORIGINAL TANGOS OF BUENOS AIRES WERE GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE CUBAN +HABANERA+ THAT WAS CARRIED TO THE SOUTHERN CONE BY SEAMEN.

NIGHTLY PERFORMANCES OF THE TANGO ARE BEING HELD AT A LARGE HAVANA THEATER. THE CONGRESS'S GUES OF HONOR IS OSVALDO PUGLIESE, AN EIGHTY THREE YEAR OLD ARGENTINIAN, WHOSE ORCHESTRA HAS BEEN FEATURING THE TANGO FOR SIXTY YEAR.
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UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
:PM-CUBA-TANGO 2HAVANA
    MANUEL VILLA, A CUBAN MUSICOLOGIST WHO DIRECTS A WEEKLY RADI9O PROGRAM DEVOTED TO THE TANGO BELIEVES THAT THE TANGO IS STILL A VITAL FORCE BECAUSE OF IT MUSICALITY, THE MOODS IT EXPRESSES AND THE MEANING OF ITS WORDS.
    +THE TANGO,+ VILLA SAID, + NOT THE DANCE BUT THE LYRICS, ABOUNDS IN MAN'S BETRAYED AND UNREQUITED LOVE.+ +BUT,+ HE SAID, +THE TANGO HAS ALSO BEEN USED TO EXPRESS POLITICAL IDEAS AND IT CAN ALSO BE SATIRICAL AND COMICAL.+
    THE TANGUEROS SAY THAT THE TANGO SPRUNG TO LIFE IN THE BARS AND HOUSES OF PROSTITUTION OF BUENOS AIRES IN THE TWENTIES. IT WAS IRIGNALLY FROWNED UPON BY THE CHURCH UNTIL IT BECAME REFINED AND MADE ACCEPTABLE TO +DECENT+ SOCIETY, THEY SAID.
    AS AN EXAMPLE OF A POLITICAL TANGO, VILLA POINTED TO THE +CAMBALACHE+ THAT WAS BANNED BY ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR DECADES BECAUSE OF IT ATTACK ON CORRUPTION.
    VIRGILIO GONZALEZ SAID THAT THERE ARE SEVENTEEN TANGO CLUBS (PENAS) IN THE CITY OF HAVANA ALONE AND OTHERS IN ALL MAJOR CUBAN CITIES. A NEW NATIONAL TANGO ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN CUBA AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAS GIVEN IT AN BIG, COLONIAL-STYLE HOUSE AS A MEETING PLACE AND MUSEUM.
    THE ASSOCIATION'S GREATEST TREASURE IS ITS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE COLLECTION OF GARDEL'S RECORDS WHICH WERE COLLECTED BY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, POMPEO ESCALA-PAREJO, OVER A PERIOD OF FIFTY YEARS.
    THE LARGEST SINGLE DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS COMES FROM MONTERREY, MEXICO. ONE OF THE WOMEN DELEGATES FROM MONTERREY RECOGNIZED THAT THE TANGO HAS OFTEN BEEN CRITICIZED BECAUSE OF ITS MACHO CONTENT AND DISDAIN FOR WOMEN AS EXPRESSED IN SUCH LYRICS AS +WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, MY WIFE HAS LEFT ME+ (CONTAMOS LA VICTORIA, MI MUJER SE FUE) +BUT WHAT I LIKE MOST,+ SHE SAID, +ARE THE TANGOS WHICH EXPRESS THE HEARTBREAK OF A BROKEN ROMANCE AND SONGS LIKE THE ONE PUGLIESE SANG HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, +A TANGO FOR FIDEL+.
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