RR-88-83 1984

NNNNNNN UU ISA LEN LCF FBA BAS
:AM-CUBA-EMBARGO (CORRECT4ED VERSION)
CUBAN ECONOMIST CLAI MS US EMBARGO HAS COST CUBA 12 BILLION DOLLARS
HAVANA: APRIL 18: REUTER - CUBA HAS LOST A TOTAL OF
TWELVE BILLION DOLLARS AS A RESULT OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC
EMBARGO ON TRADE WHICH BEGAN IN 1960 WITH THE ELIMINATION OF
THE CUBAN SUGAR QUOTA AND ESCALATED UNTIL THE SALE OF FOOD AND
MEDICINES WERE BANNED IN MAY 1984: ACCORDING TO THE CUBAN ECONOMIST
FERNANDO DAVALOS WRITING IN SUNDAY'S WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE OFFICIAL
COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER: GRANMA.
AS CUSTOMARY IN CUBA: DAVALOS SPOKE OF +ECONOMIC BLOACKADE+
INSTEAD OF +ECONOMIC EMBARGO+ WHICH IS THE LEGAL TERM USED
IN THE UNITED STATES.
UNDER U.S. LAW: ALL BUSINESS AND BANKING TRANSACTIONS BETWEEEN
U.S. ENTERPRISES AND CUBA ARE CONSIDERED CRIMES. IT IS ALSO ILLEGAL F
OR U.S. CITIZENS: WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF CERTAIN PROFESSINALS SUCH AS JOURNALISTS: FROM SPENDING
MONEY ON THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND.
DAVALOS DERIVES HIS ESTIMATE OF 12 BILLION DOLLARS AS THE COST
TO CUBA OF THE BLOCKADE BY BEGINNING WITH THE 9 BILLION DOLLAR
FIGURE PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL BANK OF CUBA IN 1982 AND ADDING
450 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY.
+CUBA HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE IN SPITE OF THE BLOCKADE: ALBEIT
WITH SACRIFICES:+ THE CUBAN ECONOMIST SAID. +THE
STATES +HAS WITNESSED THE CRUMBLING OF ITS OBSESSIVE STRATEGIC
GOAL OF STARVING US TO DEATH:+ HE STATED.
THE ARTICLE CHARGED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EXERTS
PRESSURES ON THIRD NATIONS TO PREVENT THEM FROM DOING BUSINESS WITH
CUBA.
ACCORDING TO CUBAN OFFICIALS: THE U.S. BANS THE IMPORTATION
OF ANY STEEL FROM OVERSEAS WHICH MIGHT CONTAIN CUBAN NICKEL. THE
OFFICIALS ALSO SAY THAT WASHINGTON PROIBITS MERCHANT SHIPS THAT
HAVE CARRIED PRODUCTS TO OR FROM CUBA FROM ENTERING U.S. PORTS.
DAVALOS WROTE THAT +CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMEENTS
BECAME COMPLEX AND HARD TO HANDLE DUE TO ITS INABILITY TO
USE U.S. CURRENCY WHEN IT REROUTEED ITS TRADE TO EUROPE.+ HEE
SAID THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT PRESSURE TO BEAR TO
MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR CUBA TO RECEIVE MEDIUM AND LONG
TERM LOANS IN THE WEST.
THE GRANMA ARTICLE SAID THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE BLOCKADE
+OUR COUNTRY HAS MANAGED TO GET AHEAD.+ HE DECLARED THAT 87 PERCENT
OF THE ISLAND'S TRADE IS AT PRESENT WITH THE USSR AND OTHER
COMMUNIST BLOC NATIONS. WHEN THE REVOLUTION TRIUMPHED IN
1959, 99 PERCENT OF CUBAN TRADE WAS WITH MARKET ECONOMY
NATIONS AND 69 PERCENT OF IT WAS WITH THE UNITED STATES ALONG.
==REUTER/LEM
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