1988 RR-88-9.

UU ISA LEN BAS FBA CAW VISM
#AM-CUBA-ARSON
OPERATOR ADMITS SETTING FIRE TO CUBA'S MAIN TELEPHONE PLANT:
HAVANA, NOV 30, REUTER - A DISGRUNTED OPERATOR ADMITTED SETTING FIRE LAST NOVEMBER 13 TO CUBA'S PRINCIPAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE WHICH INTERRUPTED BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS, GRANMA REPORTED WEDNESDAY.

THE OPERATOR SAID SHE WAS ANGRY AT THE PLANT'S MANAGEMENT BECAUSE OF SEVERAL WARNING SHE HAD RECEIVED FOR LEAVING HER WORKPLACE WITHOUT PERMISSION, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

ACCORDING TO CUBAN OFFICIALS, AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF EQUIPMENT WAS DESTROYED BY THE FIRE. THE DAMAGE LEFT CUBA WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS FOR TWENTY FOUR HOURS AND ALSO LEFT A MAJOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DISTRICT OF HAVANA WITHOUT SERVICE.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IS STILL NOT BACK TO NORMAL, THE OFFICIALS SAID.

GRANMA SAID THAT THE OPERATOR, MARIA CRISTINA GARCIA BELLO CONFESSED THAT SHE POURED ALCOHOL ON EQUIPMENT AT THE PLANT AND SET FIRE TO IT WITH A MATCH. SHE SAID THAT HER INTENTION WAS TO SET A SMALL FIRE THAT WOULD NOT DO MAJOR DAMAGE.
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