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~~(C//NF)~~ **SUBJ: 1. SUSTAINED CONSTRUCTION OF PAN AMERICAN GAMES HOUSING AT EXPENSE OF OTHER RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS 2. FACTORY CUTBACKS AND FOOD SHORTAGES**

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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TEXT: 1. [REDACTED] CUBAN CONSTRUCTION BRIGADES HAD SUFFICIENT BUILDING MATERIALS TO CONTINUE WORK ON HOUSING ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLANNED AUGUST 1991 PAN AMERICAN GAMES. WORK DID APPEAR TO BE GOING SLOWLY DUE TO LABORERS' DISINTEREST AND MEDIOCRE PLANNING.

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ALL OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN THE HAVANA AREA APPEARED PARALYZED. PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION HAD SLOWED DOWN ALMOST TO A STANDSTILL DUE TO SCARCITY OF MATERIALS. SOME LABORERS WHO HAD BEEN ABLE TO EARN UP TO 20 PESOS PER DAY ASSISTING PRIVATE CITIZENS IN CONSTRUCTING HOUSE ADDITIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS WERE PAID FIVE PESOS PER DAY FOR WORKING ON THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES PROJECTS.

2. MOST YOUNG CUBANS ENTERING THE WORKFORCE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FINDING STABLE EMPLOYMENT. DURING LATE 1990, FUEL AND MATERIALS SHORTAGES BROUGHT ABOUT CUTBACKS IN SEVERAL MAJOR WORK CENTERS IN HAVANA. WORKERS WERE DISPLACED PRIMARILY TO AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS. SPECIFICALLY, IN THE SANTOS SUAREZ AREA, A SHOE FACTORY AND A TOWEL FACTORY WERE REDUCED TO SKELETON WORK FORCE IN LATE 1990.

[] COMMENT: THE NAMES OF THE FACTORIES ARE NOT RECALLED.)

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3. FOOD SHORTAGES CONSTITUTED THE WORST PROBLEM FACED BY THE POPULATION. ALMOST ALL THE INCOME OF HAVANA AREA RESIDENTS WENT FOR FOOD. BLACK MARKET FOOD WAS STILL AVAILABLE, BUT WAS MORE EXPENSIVE AND HARD TO FIND BECAUSE OF INCREASED POLICE VIGILANCE AGAINST THIS ACTIVITY. WHILE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS AND MILITARY OFFICERS WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN NEEDED FOOD ITEMS, A FORMER MILITARY OFFICER RESIDING IN THE SANTOS SUAREZ AREA LAMENTED THAT HE WAS STRUGGLING TO FIND FOOD HE WANTED DESPITE HIS PREVIOUS SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY.

4. ONE YOUNG MALE RESIDENT OF THE SANTOS SUAREZ AREA OF HAVANA LIVED WITH HIS COMMON LAW WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN. THEIR SMALL CLAPBOARD HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE WIFE'S MOTHER'S PATIO. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A YOUNG COUPLE, SINCE NEW HOUSING WAS EXTREMELY SCARCE FOR CUBANS LEAVING THE FAMILY NEST. ELECTRICAL SERVICE FOR THE ABOVE HOUSE CONSISTED OF ONE CEILING LIGHT BULB CONNECTED TO A WIRE RUNNING FROM THE MOTHER'S HOUSE. ONE WATER PIPE, ALSO FROM THE ADJOINING HOUSE, PROVIDED WATER SERVICE. BOTH UTILITIES SUFFERED INTERRUPTIONS AT LEAST EVERY OTHER DAY. THE COUPLE'S TWO CHILDREN SLEPT ON A MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR. THEY HAD A VERY LIMITED WARDROBE, WHICH WAS KEPT IN THE MOTHER'S HOUSE BECAUSE THEIR HOUSE HAD NO CLOSETS. THE YOUNG MAN RODE A BICYCLE SEVERAL KILOMETERS TO WORK. THIS WAS PREFERABLE TO TAKING THE BUS, WHICH MEANT DELAYS AND A ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR COMMUTE EACH WAY. FREE TIME FOR MOST YOUNG MEN WAS SPENT SLEEPING OR DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITH FRIENDS.

5. LOCAL DOCTORS PROVIDED GOOD ATTENTION TO MEDICAL NEEDS, BUT THEY ROUTINELY TOLD PATIENTS UPON ISSUING PRESCRIPTIONS THAT THE PATIENTS WERE ON THEIR OWN IN SEARCHING FOR THE MEDICATION. HOSPITAL STAYS WERE ABBREVIATED. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE LOCAL MAN UNDERWENT AN APPENDECTOMY AND WAS USHERED OUT OF THE HOSPITAL EARLY THE NEXT DAY.

6. THERE WERE NO KNOWN INSTANCES OF PLANNING OF VIOLENT ACTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT INTERESTS, BECAUSE CUBANS GENERALLY FEARED SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES. CUBANS ALSO HAD SOME CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBLY CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS OF A MAJOR UPHEAVAL IN THE COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS, CUBANS COMPLAINED MORE THAN EVER IN PUBLIC PLACES, AND SCUFFLES OCCASIONALLY BROKE OUT IN LONG BREAD LINES.

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NATIONALS. [REDACTED]

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