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19 March 1981

# Latin America Report

(FOUO 6/81)

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

WALTERS' TRIP TO CHILE 'EMBRACE OF OLD FRIENDS'

PA271912 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1302 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Article by Javier Rodriguez: "The Embrace of Old Friends"]

[Text] Even as the UN Human Rights Commission was reaffirming its condemnation of Augusto Pinochet's government for its repressive and bloody policy against the Chilean people, a friendly meeting was taking place in Santiago, Chile.

Brimming with satisfaction over the mission assigned to him, Vernon Walters, the former deputy director of the CIA, held cordial meetings with the Chilean dictator, who is in the midst of a honeymoon with the new U.S. administration.

In truth, for Walters it was a matter of remembering old times when, from his high-ranking post within the organization of espionage and subversion, he maintained close contacts with the military which eliminated Chilean democracy and took over power in 1973.

In those days, and ignoring the world repudiation of the bloodbath to which the Chilean people had been subjected, Ronald Reagan's current special envoy actively collaborated with the fascist regime's intelligence services.

Walters' name even surfaced during the investigations on the assassination of Orlando Letelier, former government minister of the popular unity, who was killed in the United States by Pinochet's agents.

It was learned at the time that one of the most important defendants in this case, the chief of Chile's sinister National Information Directorate, held a number of secret meetings with Walters shortly before the crime was committed.

With this to his credit, it was only logical that the former deputy director of the CIA would be appointed to travel to Santiago, Chile, in order to underscore the U.S. Government's decision to raise its relations with the dictatorship to the highest level because, as Walters himself put it, "friends must be treated as friends."

The announcement about this rapprochement has already been accompanied by specific measures: the opening up of all types of U.S. trade negotiations with Chile and joint U.S.-Chilean armed forces' participation in military maneuvers.

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Naturally, in order to give even greater meaning to this holy alliance between imperialists and fascists, another element has been added as a common denominator.

Thus, the governments of Reagan and Pinochet have announced to the world their total agreement with the aggressive U.S. plans against El Salvador, their joint participation in the campaign of slanders against the continent's progressive forces and their decision to cooperate with each other "in defending the hemisphere."

The increase in U.S. aid to the government that emerged from the military coup in Chile was, of course, another favorite topic during the two meetings held between the Yankee delegate and the Chilean general.

In short, it was a jubilant meeting, as is natural between two old friends who represent similar interests of sad significance for Chile's workers and peasants.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED PRACTICE OF 'TERRORISM' CITED

PA281412 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1231 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Report by Carlos Mora Herman]

[Text] The U.S. Government has launched a new propaganda campaign under the slogan "struggle against international terrorism," accusing socialist countries of encouraging and practicing terrorism.

Many will recall the campaign launched by the previous U.S. administration about "human rights." In both cases, the Washington government is applying the frequently used trick of shouting: "after that thief! after that thief!" in an effort to evade responsibilities.

To begin with, it is necessary to state that international terrorism, as an inadmissible and abominable method of state policy, has been used for a long time by various U.S. administrations.

We could cite many examples: the terrorism against the missions in New York of UN member nations and the CIA operations aimed at killing democratic leaders who struggle for national liberation in their countries.

Some people have a bad memory or simply would rather not see or hear what does not suit them. This is what happens to the imperialists constantly. Between 1945 and 1975, the United States used military force or the threat of military force 215 times to impose its will on other nations. It has used mercenaries against newly liberated countries as in the case of Angola and Nicaragua. The overthrowing of the Guatemalan Government in 1954 was the result of sinister CIA and U.S. Government plots. Prior to that, there was the overthrowing in Iran of the Mossadeq government which in 1953 expropriated Iran's oil. This coup made room for the bloody dictatorship of Shah Reza Pahlavi.

There was the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, the mercenary invasion against Cuba in Playa Giron, the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in Africa, the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam in 1963. These are some of the most outstanding deeds of that policy of terror and crime.

The U.S. Government has always used massive terror and has backed it when its partners use it. The U.S. Government has supported and does support the genocidal regime of Pol Pot which assassinated 3 million Kampuchians. The U.S. Government

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imposed the dictatorship of the black colonels in Greece in 1967 and, through the CIA, carried out a coup d'etat in Chile in 1973 that resulted in the overthrow and assassination of President Allende and in the sinking of that sister nation in an era of terror and crime against the people.

The present campaign of the U.S. Government against international terrorism is a grotesque farce just like Carter's human rights campaign was. It reveals, among other things, the cynicism of a social regime that has committed unspeakable crimes in various parts of the world, that unleashed a cruel war in Vietnam pitilessly using napalm and bacteriological agents against the Vietnamese people.

A government that has had no scruples in planning and carrying out acts of terrorism in almost all the countries of the world and that has protected, trained and armed the best-known professional assassins and terrorists such as the ones that operate with impunity in that country and carry out attacks such as the one on Lettelier or carry out attacks in other countries with the protection of the imperial government--such a government has no right to proclaim itself the defender of liberty, because it denies liberty and protects only its hegemonic interests and the interests of bloody dictators such as Somoza, the shah of Iran, Stroessner, Pinochet and the murderous junta of El Salvador.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

UNITED STATES SHOULD REMEMBER 'LESSONS' OF VIETNAM

PA281936 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1220 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Report by Eloy Concepcion]

[Excerpts] President Ronald Reagan this week participated in a strange ceremony which was intended to revive the "prestige" lost by the United States in Vietnam. At the ceremony, he proclaimed himself the standard bearer of an effort to rewrite what he called "the noble cause."

The ceremony was held to decorate U.S. soldiers who participated in "outstanding" actions in Vietnam. The report with a Washington dateline does not mention Lt William Calley among the decorated soldiers. On 16 March 1968, Calley raided a South Vietnamese village and murdered more than 500 persons, including women and children.

On that occasion, Calley was decorated with two brass stars and the "purple heart" for his services in Vietnam.

The soldiers decorated by Reagan are [Correspondent] also from the year 1968, [as received] when the murders, violations, tortures and acts of sodomy practiced by the U.S. troops in Vietnam were reported.

President Reagan said at the ceremony that "the U.S. soldiers were denied permission to win the war." For the U.S. people, 1975 was the culmination of an evident failure that was consuming young soldiers in Asian jungles. They went back home ashamed and defeated.

Now that the U.S. Government is initiating actions that are reminiscent of the escalation that mired it down in Southeast Asia, sectors in the United States that are concerned with the developments should see in this ceremony another reason for calling for commonsense and meditation.

During his period as governor of California, later as presidential candidate, and now as tenant of the White House, Reagan has not hidden his admiration for the U.S. action in Vietnam. Some 3 million soldiers were involved in the Vietnam war. The United States used all its resources to win, including the worst type of arms for the extermination of civilian population. The only weapon they did not use was the atomic bomb, but they were defeated by the firm and audacious actions of the Vietnamese. This disaster was a trauma for a nation used to "winning."

Since then, many liberated territories have emerged in many parts of the world and the United States has had to resign itself to keeping its hands out or to acting through the CIA.

Has the United States forgotten this lesson?

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NORDIC BRIGADE 10TH ANNIVERSARY DISCUSSED WITH MEMBERS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 2 Jan 81 pp 44-47

[Article by Frank Hechavarria: "Ten Years for a Contingent"]

[Text] The first contingent formed by brigade members from different so-called /Nordic countries/ [in boldface] came to work in our country 10 years ago. This enthusiastic group returned to us again.

This time the contingent of the Nordic Brigade consisted of 204 people--92 men and 112 women. They came to Cuba in two stages--on 29 and 30 November. By 1 December they were working on housing construction for the textile town of Ariguanabo and the Ceiba del Agua agricultural plan.

Five countries were represented in this 10th contingent: Sweden (with 69 brigade members), Denmark (68), Finland (52), Norway (17) and Iceland (7). The brigade was subdivided into seven work groups that rotated their work between the rural area and construction.

The Nordic contingent remained in Cuba until 26 December. On 20 December, it left for Santiago de Cuba where it stayed until 25 December.

Remember First Brigades

We visited the Julio A. Mella camp in Ceiba del Agua where the brigade was based. We could feel the energy radiating from these modern "Vikings." Their main drive is solidarity with Cuba and with other Third World countries.

With the help of comrade Gabriel Benitez, camp director, we managed to meet a good group from this 10th contingent who had already participated in previous brigades. We had the good fortune to even find veterans from the first brigades that visited us. We had a very pleasant reminiscing conversation.

The first to speak was Sofie Gammeltoft from Denmark who has participated in four brigades. She first visited Cuba in 1972. She said:

"I had the opportunity to come in the first brigade in which Danes participated. That was one of the largest with 300 brigade members, 180 of us from Denmark. At that time, I really did not know much about Cuba. I knew something from what I

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had learned in school and in different places but, at that time, I was working in an organization that helped underdeveloped countries. While there, I became interested in the Cuban revolution because of its example for the rest of the Latin American countries. I had many questions and much interest in learning what was happening in Cuba."

Sofie said: "I have very pleasant memories from that brigade. It was a marvelous experience for me. At that time, we worked on the construction of the town of Los Naranjos. That was the first time I was faced with hard work; I was then a preuniversity student. It was wonderful to feel useful; I liked that very much. I especially liked the contact with the construction workers who are very good comrades; we discussed the Cuban revolution with them. From them I learned how the Cubans think, their desires, their tremendous optimism and the marvelous confidence that they have in Fidel and in the revolution. These are things that I will never forget."

Sven Larsen, another Dane, said that he first participated in the 1976 brigade. That contingent worked in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Sven explained: "I am a plumber. Therefore, I really felt good about our work which was housing construction. The best experience was when we walked around the city and talked with the people. The Santiago people are fantastic! They are very attractive, very nice and very open. You begin to talk with them and it soon seems as if they are old friends. I honestly felt very close to the Cubans in Santiago."

Sven added: "Another thing that impressed me greatly was the group of Cuban workers who worked with us, the camaraderie of those workers and the brotherhood that developed between the Nordics and the Cubans. The visits we made to the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] in the Santiago blocks and to the schools and hospitals were also a very good experience. That was such a fantastic experience that I came again with this new brigade. It will not be my last."

Jesper Weime, also from the Danish group, said:

"I work on road construction in Denmark. I came with the 1974 and 1976 brigades. I can tell you that, as a construction worker, I have never felt the fellowship among workers that I have felt with the Cuban construction workers. The way the Cubans received us has always impressed me. We felt the love from the Cubans. It was a sincere love which always touches one deeply. I believe that I have already left most of my heart here; I am in love with this beautiful country. I can also say that this will not be my last brigade."

One of the first presidents of the Swedish-Cuban Friendship Association, Sven Wernstrom, was in the group. He said that this is his third visit to Cuba.

"My first visit was with a delegation of journalists and movie actors in 1966. We toured the entire country and made several documentaries for Swedish television. The film that I liked most was the one we made in Minas de Frio called 'The mountain school.' It was very pretty and touching. The experiences from that trip and the other I made helped me write a book about the Cuban revolution called 'Rebellion.'"

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Wernstrom added: "I also returned to Cuba with the 5 de Mayo International Brigade in 1968. It was a tremendous surprise because we arrived on 2 January and went directly from the airport to the Plaza de la Revolucion where we could see and hear Fidel."

Meeri Lapantie, a mature woman, then spoke of her experiences on previous trips. She put tremendous enthusiasm and joy in her work, an example for the rest of her comrades.

"I also participated in the 1976 brigade in the city of Santiago de Cuba. That first visit to Cuba was a great experience for me. At my age, I can say that it was the greatest adventure of my life. I am a nurse who specializes in mental health. Here in Cuba I was greatly influenced when I visited the Mazorra psychiatric hospital in Havana. I realized that the magnificent mental rehabilitation work done in Cuba not only concerns the mental illness but the physical condition of the patient. It is a tremendous technique. I tried to apply it in Finland but it was very difficult for me because the whole medical organization would have to be changed. I have a bulletin board at the hospital where I put up the articles written by comrades who have visited Mazorra. That visit, the trip and the work in the brigade all impressed me so much that I decided to participate again and here I am."

Then Lone Schou Andersen, a Dane who already had five brigades to her credit beginning in 1973, spoke. She said:

"I want to talk about the development that I have seen in Cuba through my experiences with the brigades. For example, we see that there is much more mechanization in construction work now. In the first brigades, the work was very hard. Now it is more organized which is reflected in the high productivity we achieve now. That is due not only to the institutionalization of the country but also there are more resources now with which to work. That is very good.

"It greatly impressed me to see the town of Los Naranjos already finished in 1975 with families living in the houses that we had helped build and children running around the new buildings. That experience was very positive for my training and my life."

Veikko Kiokkola, another veteran of the Nordic Brigade, said: "I am a technological assistant in work safety at the Advanced Technological Institute in Tamperes, Finland. I participated for the first time in the 1972 brigade.

"I can say that one finds joy in this type of work which is very hard to forget or to find in my own country. That 1972 brigade was my first experience in Cuba. There were many emotions and activities. I also worked on the construction of the town of Los Naranjos. In spite of the fact that this brigade is also working on construction, it is different because now it is working on five-story buildings. I believe that this is going to be very positive for me just as the previous brigades were."

Bruno Larsen, transportation organization technician, is 34 years old and participated in four Nordic Brigades. He explained:

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"In spite of everything they had explained to us, we had a different view of Cuba there in Denmark. My encounter with this country was tremendous. In my subsequent trips, I have been able to appreciate how the Cubans have advanced, how their revolution progresses. I remember that the first time that we came to this camp, it was very primitive. Now we can say like the song: 'Cuba, how beautiful Cuba is.'

"I remember something that happened to me and to other Danes in the town of Los Naranjos. We were putting the roof on a building and had to walk on the beams. It was three floors high and there was no protection on the sides. One of the Cuban comrades realized that we were afraid and he told us to watch. He went up to the roof and started to dance the rumba on the beams. We started to laugh and climb and naturally lost our fear. I am telling you this so that you can see what you Cubans are like."

Now a young blond, Eva Rosenkilde from Denmark, spoke slowly in perfect Spanish. She explained:

"This is my second brigade but I want to tell you that in 1958 and 1959 we played we were Cuban guerrillas. The Cuban guerrillas attracted us enormously. However, since we had little education about the Third World, I still had many questions. I began to look for material. When I saw a film on Danish television about Cuba, I began to get interested in this country. I started to study Spanish and I became a member of the Danish-Cuban Friendship Association. I came with the brigade to learn more about Cuba.

"One of the things that most impressed me here is the niceness of the Cubans. You feel that the people are very self-confident. Of course, socialism gives this to people. I believe that this idea of the brigades is very good since it is a magnificent way to publicize the Cuban revolution, to have more direct contact with a people in revolution, see how they live, how they think and how they work. I can say that every day I experience something new here. I feel that Cuba gets under your skin. Like my comrades, I can say that this will not be my last brigade."

Fin Gustavsen came with the group from Norway. He was a journalist on the newspaper of the Socialist Party of Norway, twice representative to the parliament of his country and president of the Socialist Party from 1971 to 1973. He wrote a book about Cuba.

"My first visit to Cuba was in 1966 with a delegation of other politicians and writers. We were motivated by the formidable triumph of the revolution and by the fact that this was the first socialist country in America. The positive impression that I received was so strong that I wrote the book in 14 days of intensive work. I devoted myself to that alone. There was an urgent need to tell my people about the marvelous experiment that I had witnessed.

"I basically made this trip with the Nordic Brigade because I have a 20-year-old son who has heard a lot about Cuba and was very interested in coming. We are here, my son and I. Now the experience is different because we are not only visiting the country but also working, helping a little."

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Gunnar Svein Skarphedinnson was part of the group from Iceland. He was a professor and at times worked on ship construction in the shipyards of his island country. This was the first time that he and his comrades have come with the brigade.

"Forming a contingent is a very good idea, especially so that people like us have the chance to travel to Cuba and see what life in this country that attracts our attention is really like. It is not the same if a friend or a comrade tells you; I mean comrades who have come with previous brigades. No, that is not the same as seeing things with your own eyes. This is a formidable experience.

"I admire the kindness of the people here. We have seen this in our daily work and in the two times that we have visited Havana. I can tell you that your people are wonderful."

Anita Mikkunen was from Finland and spoke perfect Spanish. This was her second trip with the Nordic Brigade. This time she came as a representative of the Finnish-Cuban Friendship Association. She stated:

"The Finnish-Cuban Friendship Association is a strong and large organization; we have about 5,000 members and they are quite active. The association has branches in more than 10 cities in Finland. Some of their activities are independent and others are carried out under the guidelines of the main office in Helsinki.

"In the capital we have groups that are concerned with different activities. For example, they have the responsibility for publishing our newspaper CUBA SI. There is a group that works on translations. Another group organizes parties. We have a well-known 'Cuban night' once every month or two where we dance, talk about Cuba, give lectures and see slides. Another group is in charge of work or cultural exchange between the two countries. There is also a group that works for the daycare centers that we sponsor in Cuba. With the money that it collected, for example, this group bought two washing machines for those daycare centers."

Anita said: "Our association has a board of directors with 21 comrades on it. These include several representatives from different political parties, professionals and students. We have an executive committee and a permanent secretary who works daily at the association office. We have a small library there with Cuban literature and Latin American books. I can tell you that BOHEMIA arrives promptly along with the RESUMEN SEMANAL from GRANMA, the magazine CUBA INTERNACIONAL and other publications, books and slides that ICAP [Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples] sends us."

Borde Akerlund was the president of the Swedish-Cuban Friendship Association. He was a doctor and the leader of the 60 members in the Swedish group of the 10th Nordic Brigade.

"Our association now has more than 3,000 members throughout the country. The comrades who participate each year in the Nordic contingent that comes to work in Cuba belong to the association. It is an indispensable requirement to be an active member for more than 6 months, to participate in seminars on Cuba and to do an activity. I feel that the association has been a bridge between Cuba and

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Sweden. Thanks to the brigades, each year the association and, therefore, the friendship between the two peoples become stronger. The brigades have a very important function. Cuba is seen in Sweden as it really is, very optimistically. The Swedish people know and admire Cuba because the Cuban revolution has earned a great reputation in my country."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

RADIO COVERAGE OF SECOND PCC CONGRESS NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 9 Jan 81 p 29

[Article by Ilse Bulit: "In Congress with the News"]

[Text] Radio Reloj and Radio Rebelde are excellent national radio stations. Their main function is to bring near and faraway events to the listener. Both fight hard to fulfill this difficult social objective. Good proof of this was coverage of the Second Party Congress.

Radio Reloj, with its historic ticking, went into the Palacio de las Convenciones days before the communist meeting opened. It dug in, preparing background and conditions. Pedro Rojas, head of the team, and Nidia Rodriguez, Osana Osoria, Samuel Urra and Ezequiel Perez Martin, plus station director Omar Mendoza, a journalist himself, attacked their typewriters and, in front of color television, reported the news to the people as it happened.

At the station, another team made special broadcasts on the Main Report, giving constant updates on it. Meanwhile, a group of correspondents took to the streets with the news of this very important event, backed by the clear voices of announcers and good technicians.

Radio Rebelde, with its own features, undertook the task from another angle. For days, Carmen Caminas and Arnaldo Coro, backed by Carlos Rafael Jimenez, strolled around with a tape recorder.

For the opening session, the El Rapido news bulletin was expanded to 30 minutes and was offered on all the stations. The program opened with a 10-minute documentary of scenes from the opening and also offered national and international reactions to this meeting of the Cuban communists. During adjournments of the congress, a news summary of what had occurred until then was given. There were bulletins of excerpts by the participants themselves. There were also interviews with delegates like the woman teacher from the mountains, the agricultural aviation pilot and victorious cutters. Even the voice of the first Latin American cosmonaut came across the air again to give his impressions as a delegate. The live transmissions were noteworthy. Engineers Antonio Gonzalez, Antonio Planas, Eduardo Ane, Santiago Varona and Pedro Lleras were responsible for the electronic portion which is so important.

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Radio Reloj and Radio Rebelde clearly demonstrated that their teams chosen for this tremendously important coverage were made up of men and women to whom journalism is not merely a way to earn daily sustenance but an absorbing and consuming profession to which those who love it give themselves up, body and soul.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PREUNIVERSITY SCIENCE TRAINING DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Jan 81 pp 42-43

[Article by Concepcion Duchesne: "Train Specialists in Exact Sciences"]

[Excerpt] We are in a new school for preuniversity students, a specialized center where the students' basic objective is to expand their knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry.

These are the basic sciences for scientific and technical development, development in which we are totally involved. We are doing everything possible to reach the necessary scientific and technical level nationally. Therefore, the center responds to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's statements that these subjects are directly involved in the economic development of the country.

In order to carry out the objectives of increasing knowledge of these sciences as well as to guide the youths vocationally and give them adequate professional information, the study plan has two cycles.

First cycle: There are a series of activities aimed at teaching mathematics, physics and chemistry. The students participate in optional classes, laboratory work and computation and research seminars in each of the subjects. Mathematics must be taken by all the students; that is, all of them participate in these activities even if they have chosen one of the other two subjects.

Second cycle: All the courses corresponding to the preuniversity grades as established in the national plans and programs are taught.

This school is a national school and admission is through competition. The students apply directly from the different towns and provinces of the country.

All students who have the right aptitudes and attitudes in basic sciences and have graduated from ninth grade can apply for this competition in the subject that they choose: mathematics, physics or chemistry. However, the examination can only be taken in one subject.

This national school began to operate this school year, 1980-1981. About 6,000 students, graduates from ninth grade and the preuniversity grades--that is, 10th and 11th grades--participated in the competition. The 132 students now in it cover all preuniversity grades.

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Next school year there will be room for 290 more students and only graduates of ninth grade will be admitted.

The winners of the national competition in these subjects can enter the school directly. The students who will participate in the International Mathematics Olympiad are also trained there.

Total enrollment is 132 students: 45 in 10th grade, 43 in 11th grade and 44 in 12th grade. There are 31 girls; 88 of the students are from Havana and the rest are from the other provinces.

The staff consists of professors from the University of Havana and teachers selected from the Ministry of Education. There are 21 general education teachers and 15 in special education from the University of Havana.

The school is organized under the normal boarding system. Requirements for staying are the same as in vocational schools--that is, an 85-percent grade average.

In spite of having an educational load of 15 courses, the students have a general grade average of 95 to 98; 34 of them have over 98.

The center participates in the National Emulation Plan and, of course, includes recreational, cultural and sports activities.

Here is a new educational experiment, an advanced intermediate school that is the basis for training advanced-level scientific cadres. It is a selective school focused on the vocation of its students. They have had to demonstrate their training in the admission competition in which the knowledge acquired at the secondary level, the application of this knowledge and the abilities and skills developed were measured.

The students have chosen the science in which they want to develop their professional work. Although they come with small gaps that are quickly overcome, positive results have already become reality. They have demonstrated their quality through their attitude toward study, their political level and their desire to improve. They are self-motivated to study and acquire knowledge. There is a perfect student-teacher relationship because both are demanding of each other. The interest of the students demands excellence from the teachers and the teachers, in turn, see their efforts fulfilled through the work and constant interest of the students.

We believe that this new experiment will be a success if it is not already because its organization is based on rational planning, the product of a conscious analysis of past experience and the proposed objectives.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NICARAGUA EXPERIENCES DESCRIBED BY OCLAE DOCTORS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 9 Jan 81 pp 60-63

[Article by Manuel Gonzalez Bello]

[Text] The six members of the Maj Francisco Meza Rojas Internationalist Medical Brigade formed by the Continental Organization of Latin American Students (OCLAE) have returned from Nicaragua after spending 9 months there. Talking with them reaffirms that underdevelopment transcends mere social classification, or that repeated written accounts do not give a true picture of the situation, even when accompanied by figures which appear to be eloquent. Underdevelopment is a reality, a disease which is killing our people and which, in the case of Nicaragua, is finding its cure in the Sandinist revolution.

The story told here seeks to offer a synthesis of statements given by these internationalist doctors to BOHEMIA's correspondent.

Here is their meritorious labor on Nicaraguan soil; here one can appreciate the harsh reality of that Central American country, only yesterday the victim of the slow Somozist massacre--the consequences of which still remain--and which today, rising from its ruins, is in itself a cry for true and militant solidarity.

The revolution in Nicaragua triumphed in July, 1979. In October an OCLAE delegation went there to find out how Latin American students might help with national reconstruction. The need for doctors, so scarce there, was pointed out. In the health sector the needs were urgent. There was a shortage not only of doctors, but also of hospitals, surgical equipment, medicines and beds. The few hospitals were concentrated in Managua, and such facilities were practically non-existent in the rest of the country. The mortality rate was high: among infants there were 146 deaths for every 1000 births, not to mention that many of those who died in the mountain regions were never reported.

Somozism left behind a legacy of malnutrition and parasitic, respiratory and other diseases.

There was good reason for OCLAE to form a medical brigade, and it was composed of Alex Sosa, Lorenza Correa and Luis Tapia, all from Chile; Jose Vera and Tabare Arbiza, from Uruguay; and Juan Jose Rabilero, from Cuba. They arrived in Nicaragua at the end of February, and after participating in OCLAE political activities in Managua went to the department of Chontales in the central region of the country,

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to southern Zelaya and to Boaco. Vera, the brigade leader, Rabilero, Tapia and Arbizá were stationed in the hospital at Juigalpa, the departmental capital of Chontales; Lorenza was assigned to Bueyes Municipality in southern Zelaya, and Alex Sosa to Boaco.

## Naming the Brigade

Francisco Meza Rojas was a student leader in Leon, where he was born in 1951. He entered the university in 1971 and took part in student demonstrations for freeing political prisoners and against the rising costs of living. There he was a public figure in the Revolutionary Student Front, which supported the position of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]. In 1975 he was elected president of the University Center of the National University (CUUN), top student body organization. He was always involved with organizing the workers to confront the dictatorship and was forced to go underground. On leaving a meeting where the general strike was being planned that would break out at the same time as the popular armed insurrection on 2 June 1979, he was arrested and murdered by the National Guard. The internationalist doctors saw in this figure a name they could bear with dignity.

## Juigalpa

To confront an unknown environment, a completely different geography, people of another nation, other customs and habits. Chontales and its capital, Juigalpa, which has 25,000 inhabitants--marked, like all Nicaraguans, by decades of Somozism and the curse which came from the north until the Sandinists put an end to all that. Luis Tapia describes it as follows: "Chontales is a pretty backward place. Its people mostly raise cattle, but this does not satisfy their needs. They do not even use the milk, which is sold by the ranch owners. In the summer Chontales is like a desert; it is very wearing; everything is rocky and burned up. When spring comes it is a beautiful countryside, like paradise: leafy, humid and with vegetation. The peasants harvest corn, beans and rice. This is what they eat, this is the basis of their diet. They seldom eat meat.

"Juigalpa is the capital of Chontales. It has very severe hygiene and sanitary problems. Nearly 70 percent of the people lack sanitary services; only a very limited area around the city has them. Dwellings are of wood and tile; the majority of the houses have no floors, just the bare ground. And the kids are on the ground all the time. Ninety percent of the children have parasites. Obviously it is worse in the mountainous regions; the houses are a calamity.

"In the mountains they are not used to receiving medical assistance; they could not even imagine such a thing."

## Somoza Hospital

A good part of underdevelopment is the result of neglect of the rural areas. Nicaragua is no exception. The Juigalpa hospital was inaugurated at the beginning of 1979, just months before the people's victory. It is the only one constructed by the dictatorship in the interior of the country in the last 10 years. It has 125 beds. The dictator named it after himself: Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

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Tapia says:

"The budget for the hospital was larger, but part of it went into Somoza's pocket, so we were told. Technically it is very well equipped, with sophisticated equipment you would find in a clinic in a developed country. But that equipment is not used because trained personnel is lacking."

Rabilero says:

"The rooms where we slept were large, with bathrooms. That was where the doctors held their private consultations, in the hospital itself. It was a business. The revolution put an end to all that."

And Tapia:

"The personnel were poorly trained--people who became nurses solely on the basis of their experience, for example."

Tabare Arbiza, cardiologist:

"The professional level is low. There are doctors who have been in rural areas for many years. Our Nicaraguan colleagues there are interested in their ranches, cattle and business affairs. This takes them away from study and prevents them from having a scientific sense; the environment leads them in that direction and makes them not very amenable to change.

"There were difficulties even in taking x-rays. We suggested improving the level of doctor and nurse training. No autopsy had ever been performed in the hospital, since there were no pathologists. We did some, two of which were very interesting.

"In each cardiology case we gave a short lecture, including information about the evolution of the disease."

"Pongase las Pilas"

Jose Vera became the leader of the brigade. He is an anesthesiologist, and he tells us:

"We were the first internationalist doctors to arrive there. There were sporadic visits from Salvadorans who practiced there for 3 weeks. We proceeded cautiously; we were going to work with colleagues of other nationalities, with different points of emphasis. Everything was a question mark for us. But we must say that we got a great welcome at the hospital, not to mention from the people. The Nicaraguan is frank and open, expressive and spontaneous.

"Certainly, at the outset...There is a saying there: 'Pongase las pilas,' which translated into 'Cuban' means to hurry up, or something like that. When I arrived at the hospital I was given a taste of it. The next day, after lunch, I lay down to try to get some sleep. I had not yet met the doctors. One of the nurses woke me to tell me there was a patient in the operating room and that the surgeon wanted me there. I went, and when I arrived he asked if I was an anesthesiologist, and I said I was. 'Pongase las pilas,' he said to me. I did not know what it meant.

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'Pongase las pilas'--let us see how much you fellows know, he said. I explained to him that I was not familiar with the hospital, but he insisted that I get on with it. So I did. Well, we took care of that first case and ended up having a drink at his house. His aggressiveness disappeared when he saw our attitude."

Tapia:

"As time went by the hospital workers came to know that the internationalists were not invaders, as they thought at first, but people dedicated to their work with affection and love."

An Open People

All six of the doctors agree in their praise for the Nicaraguan people.

Rabilero sums up:

"The first few days only a few children came to the consultations, but toward the end we were seeing nearly a thousand cases a month. We won the affection and respect of the people.

"Cuba was very much maligned during the dictatorship. One girl who was training for the Literacy Crusade asked me if they made soap out of the elderly. That was the kind of propaganda they had heard.

"We have learned a great deal in these 9 months about the Nicaraguan people. They are open, sincere, good workers and have the will to fight."

Dona Aidalina

This anecdote has a meaning. Juan Jose Rabilero tells us:

"I cured one woman's son. I was his doctor and nurse for 3 months, giving him shots daily. She was very grateful. Everyone called her Dona Aidalina, but she liked me to call her simply Aidalina; I never used 'dona' with her. When we left she traveled 140 kilometers down from the mountains to say goodbye to me at the airport."

From One Parade to Another

Alex Sosa got to know the militancy of the Nicaraguans by stages:

"When we arrived in Managua there were some problems with the national situation. There was a 2-hour parade in which I participated. Slogans were being shouted, particularly having to do with the literacy campaign. 'For every Nicaraguan who learns to read and write, another yankee is beaten.' When I arrived in Boaco I participated in another parade. I had to go on from here and I was sure that in the next place I would be invited to take part in still another parade. Fine. Anyway this was a very good experience, because we had just arrived, and we were already seeing the militant and revolutionary spirit of the Nicaraguan people.

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Doctor in the Convent

Lorenza Correa was assigned to Muelle de Bueyes, in the southern part of the department of Zelaya. This Chilean doctor has much to tell:

"First I lived in a cattleman's home, but they would all go to bed at 1800 hours and expected me to go to bed at that hour, too, which was impossible because of my work. I traveled around without any permanent place to stay. The sisters invited me to stay at the convent and I accepted. I got close to them and we talked, and they invited me to the meeting of the Delegates of the Word. I knew that if I did not get close to the people my work would be impossible; those nuns have spent 20 years there, they know the mountains inside out and they have created a Christian community in every neighborhood. Here the people were religious; they saw me with the priests and nuns at Mass, and they accepted me more readily."

Death is a Way of Life

Death is always sad; moreso if it is the death of a child. The internationalist doctors saw it at close range. Death from curable diseases has been a way of life for the Nicaraguan people throughout the decades of the silent massacre of Somoziism.

Rabilero, a pediatrician, relates:

"Many times a child was gravely ill in the hospital, and the father wanted to take him away, because if he should die there would be difficulty in removing the body, because no bus would want to carry the body.

"Frequently a woman's child would be dying, and she would be peaceful and resigned. They are accustomed to having their children die; this is the way it is in the mountains. It makes a deep impression on one."

And Lorenza:

"That is true. When you ask a woman how many children she has it is not unusual for her to say: "I have 18 children: 8 dead and 10 living. For example, one morning I awoke at dawn and asked, 'What happened? Why are you getting up so early?' They told me. 'Don't you see, doctor, that we are having a wake?' And I asked, 'A wake? Who died?' 'It is nothing. Our baby died.' It was a baby that had been born 2 days before. His parents told me that he was born tired, with 'resma' or, in other words, asthma. That's the way it is. Someone dies, and life goes on peacefully."

Leprosy in the Mountains and Other Diseases

There are various diseases, many of them the result of the country being dragged down by underdevelopment and Somoziism.

Lorenza says:

"Malnutrition is the most widespread. The diet is very limited. There is also mountain leprosy, or 'ronchala' or 'ronchulera' as the peasants call it. It is like a mucous ulcer which, if aggravated, attacks the cartilage of the nose and can

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affect the larynx. It can be cured with a specific medication. During the [literacy] crusade I wrote to Ernesto Cardenal, and he sent us the vaccine. I was able to distribute it in the mountains through the Committees for the Defense of Sandinism.

"There are also many diarrhetic diseases as well as tuberculosis.

"The sanitary conditions are deplorable and cause disease."

#### The Vaccines Arrive

An extensive vaccination campaign is being carried out in Nicaragua. The OCLAE internationalist doctors contributed a great deal of it.

Alex Sosa reports:

"We administered, among others, the triple vaccination, polio vaccine and tetanus shots. We coordinated the vaccinations with a health worker from the region, a companero from the Agricultural Workers Association (ATC) or the CDS [Committees for the Defense of Sandinism], or with the literacy brigade workers, who were our link with the people, because getting to the meeting place could take 2 or more hours. There is a great deal of measles there, and we also vaccinated against that disease.

#### Against Ignorance and Much More

When the internationalist doctors arrived in Nicaragua the literacy crusade was just about to begin. Health classes were given to brigade members by the doctors. The young literacy workers became efficient doctors aides so that not only did they contribute to eradicating obscurantism, which is what the Nicaraguans call ignorance, but also to fighting disease.

Lorenza says:

"Where I was, in Muelle de Bueyes, there were 38,000 persons living in 67 regions and 102 villages. The first time I went to the mountains to vaccinate the people I found more than 300 peasants. I did not know how I was going to manage. Then I taught a group of literacy brigade workers how to administer the vaccine, and in 3 hours we gave 312 vaccinations. From then on they became my helpers. They were really magnificent, tremendously willing and ready to carry out any task."

And Tapia says:

"I observed the characteristics of those young people, their way of assimilating the revolution and the country's problems. Through the crusade the brigade workers became active members of the revolution."

#### Childbirth by Candlelight and Kitchen Knife

Many children die in the mountains, where women give birth without medical assistance.

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Rabilero:

"I arrived at the Santa Clara ranch, and a woman was about to give birth. I was not prepared for that--no gloves, nothing. I delivered the baby, however, and everything was all right."

Lorenza also says:

"Women give birth alone. They cut the umbilical cord with a kitchen knife or a razor blade. The father takes care of the child and gives it canibar oil, which they use to remove the mucous.

"I delivered one infant with a knife by candlelight; I could scarcely see what I was doing."

Returning from Nicaragua

They returned from Nicaragua having accomplished a humane work. They had helped the Nicaraguan people for 9 months, through one of their greatest difficulties. They came back optimistic about what the government and the Sandinist Front are doing for the health of the people: health campaigns, vaccination, a unified health program. In 1981 there will be a health crusade.

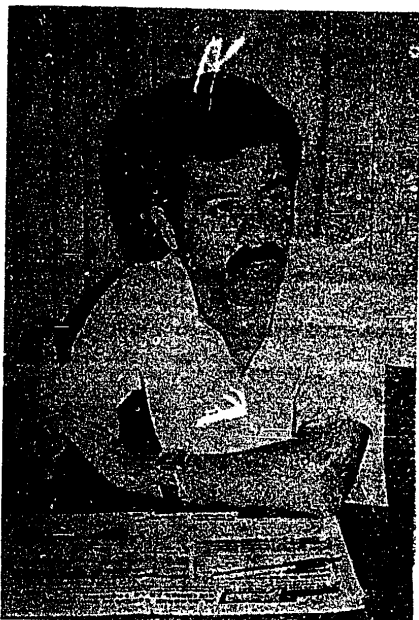
Two hundred thirty-five nurses have already graduated from the Juigalpa hospital, and another group is in training. They know that hunger and poverty, as well as curable diseases, will disappear. Some day the people of Nicaragua will be a healthy people, thanks to the revolutionary effort. From Nicaragua the doctors have brought appreciation from the Ministry of Public Health in the form of a letter from the head of that ministry: "The solidarity, selflessness and sacrifice demonstrated in the accomplishment of health tasks are appreciated by the personnel of this ministry and by me personally."

And from the 19 July Sandinist Youth:

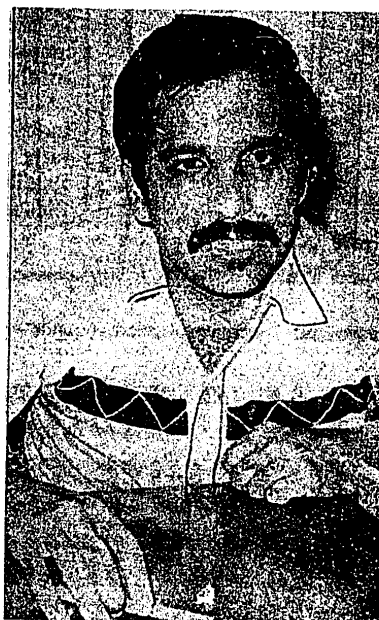
"The great spirit of revolutionary identification with our popular Sandinist revolution throughout 9 months of activity by the aforementioned brigade obliges us to make greater efforts to consolidate this process, which includes the experiences of revolutionaries of Latin America and of the world."

Here in Cuba OCLAE gave a reception for them, giving them a diploma which they will keep as a testimony to their contribution to the Nicaraguan people.

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Luis Tapia



Juan Jose Rabilero



Jose Vera



Tabare Arbiza

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARD EXPLAINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 9 Jan 81 pp 8-9

[Article by Reinaldo Penalver Moral]

[Text] The fact that I am a Cuban citizen, that my name is Juan or Pedro, that I am so many years of age, that I am a professional man or a worker and that I reside on some street in this populous city of Havana or in one of the other 13 provinces or the special municipality of Isle of Youth lacks any legal validity, because nobody knows me.

Perhaps I am not Cuban, nor am I called Pedro or Juan; perhaps I am not a professional person, nor a worker; perhaps I am residing illegally in some street in this populous city of Havana or in one of the other 13 provinces...and they might even think I have infiltrated to our society and the economy of the country: we have had numerous experiences like that in our 21 years of the revolution. It must not be forgotten that this is one of the enemy's favorite methods: to infiltrate its agents into our society.

Now then: If I am a Cuban citizen or a foreign citizen or subject and I am 16 years of age, I am obliged to have an identification card, the permanent, official document which identifies its owner as such. When it is requested by officials of the Identification Card and Population Registry or by other competent authorities and their representatives, I must show it, since it is obligatory to carry and present it, as indicated in article 3 of resolution 18 of the 1974 Ministry of Interior resolutions establishing the Identification Card and Address Registry Regulation. The only persons who do not have the identification card are members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, who have turned them in on entering the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces]. Besides...do you know that the identification card serves as your identification in any legal or administrative matter?

Your identification card should not be allowed to deteriorate. If you protect it from perspiration and dampness and do not keep any other documents in with it, you will be able to keep it in good condition.

Do you know that you could become a law breaker?

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Articles 9 to 12 of Law 1278 stipulate that if one does not have an identification card, if one is not registered in the Address Register or if one does not have a minor's card minor members of one's family or minors under one's care; or if one is the principal occupant of a dwelling and permits anyone to reside there who does not have an identification or minor's card or is not registered in the Address Register, one will be a law breaker.

Law 1278 itself establishes that administrative heads of agencies, institutions, business firms and organizations and primary, middle and high schools who admit citizens to such work or study centers without an identification or minor's card as a deposit or guarantee, as well as anyone who changes his identification card or makes any kind of notation on it, will be law breakers.

What are the Penalties?

Articles 9 through 12 provide administrative fines of 5 to 10 pesos.

Ah! And if I violate in any way the terms established relative to the Register, I will be fined up to 30 pesos, and a like fine will apply if I violate any of the provisions of this law twice during the year.

Another question:

I am going to make a temporary change of residence. What must I do?

I must appear at the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] of my new residence within 72 hours of having made the change to register in the Address Registration Book, but first I must get a form RD-3 (red) from any municipal identification card unit.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

REPORT ON ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY IN VILLA CLARA UPDATED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 9 Jan 81 pp 16-19

[Article by Magda Martinez]

[Text] Information is frequently published on different topics and issues. After some time has passed, the reader quite rightly wonders or wishes to learn about certain projects. This situation inevitably results in the formal commitment to follow up the news to see where it leads. It is almost obligatory to do so and at the same time, there is no other option during the period of the construction of a society and better way of life.

A little over 2 years ago, BOHEMIA published a Villa Clara round table, the genesis of the Revolutionary Movement for High Yields (RR) and this was the topic in question. On that occasion, the picture was not very encouraging. With the publication of this edition, that movement will be celebrating its sixth anniversary and it is unavoidable to confess openly that only three provinces are among the best: Ciego de Avila, Matanzas and Havana. As a result, it was almost imperative to return to the topic: How is Villa Clara doing? What happened to the pioneer? Was it not able to overcome the situation of 2 years ago? These and many other questions logically had to be asked.

BOHEMIA ECONOMICA has decided to answer these questions in passing, thereby complying with its fundamental duty of keeping its readers consistently informed.

This is not a mere matter of circumstances, but rather, an approach to work and the first task is that of refreshing our readers' memories.

In that round table, the following aspects were brought out:

- 1 -- For 1978, Villa Clara Province proposed to offer the people 300 pounds of different varieties of tubers per person: potatoes, malanga and plantains.
- 2 -- Because of improper planting and a lack of suitable care, it was not possible to obtain 10,000 quintals of yucca.
- 3 -- Enterprises growing different crops left from 20 to 25 percent of the crop in the ground during the harvest as a result of haste, a lack of inspections, poor quality and indifference.

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- 4 -- It was not possible to produce 10,000 quintals of sweet potatoes. Concerning tomatoes, it was noted that during the first 3 years of the RR, no progress was made. Plantings were conventional despite technical advice.
- 5 -- There is a poor practice of requesting more equipment than needed.
- 6 -- There were difficulties with potato yields and seed potatoes came largely from imports.
- 7 -- Crop specialization faced serious problems.
- 8 -- Studies were not completed on soil improvement and the best land was improperly used for housing, secondary schools and roads.
- 9 -- Coffee and banana yields were unsatisfactory. The latter was a kind of Achilles' heel, especially plantains.
- 10 -- There was a labor shortage, which affected areas planted.
- 11 -- It was observed that some enterprises did not meet technical requirements because of laziness.
- 12 -- There were not enough containers for collections.

These are the main aspects taken up critically in the round table.

This article was developed in the following manner:

The provincial agricultural delegation received the foregoing questionnaire and filled it out.

In the meantime, we began to tour the Valle del Yabu and Remedios multicrops enterprises.

Finally, a meeting was held to analyze the questionnaire. It was attended by engineers Denis Miranda, head of agricultural techniques, and Alfredo Cardenas, in charge of the RR, both from the provincial delegation.

From the conceptual standpoint, we shall maintain the logical sequence of the questions and their answers. In other words, the numbers will correspond perfectly with the preceding order.

Answer to Question 1

In 1978, the people were given 117 pounds of tubers per person. Of the total production, especially malanga, 205,968 quintals of *guagui* [type of tuber], were shipped to other provinces for seed. If this figure were added to that for consumption, per capita consumption would have risen by 29 pounds, totaling 147 instead of 117.

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Our aside: As a result, the plan to provide 300 pounds this year was not carried out. Nor was it specified whether the 117 pounds were in different batches or unbalanced.

To follow the logical train of the response:

In 1979, every person received 129 pounds. During the fourth quarter of both years, tubers were supplied by the pound, not following the harvest of specific areas.

In 1980, the historic problem with deliveries from May to September improved substantially if one compares it with other periods. The current policy is to maintain a constant flow throughout the year.

Answer to Question 2

Yucca of the Senorita variety has a potential yield of 10,000 quintals per caballeria [1 caballeria = 33.2 acres] with irrigation and using the system of traditional planting.

When the Colombian method of planting is used, we hope to achieve high yields, based on CEMSA [Agamic Seeds Improvement Center] verifications, ranging up to approximately 29,000 quintals.

In areas incorporated into the RR, the initial commitment was 15,000 quintals. That figure was adjusted and now stands at 10,000, until there is absolute mastery of the technology.

Note: The Colombian system is nothing more than yucca planted in a furrow with seedlings approximately 50 centimeters high. Based on experimental areas, we know that the method triples and quadruples yields. If one then adds irrigation, one can quite rightly ask: How high can the potential go? Workers will now begin to receive a percentage bonus for final yields. Who will then want to go by conventional figures. Experience alone will tell.

Let us continue with the province's proposals for yucca production:

Given the shortage of irrigation equipment in the province, it was wise to relegate yucca to a secondary place. There is the additional problem that the crop requires a minimum period for digging, shipment and delivery to the consumer or else it declines in quality.

The capacity to supervise and inspect went with priority to areas in which the largest investments had been made and to crops requiring the most resources.

Plants put in in December and January did not grow well because of the lack of moisture in the soil. This situation resulted in constant weed problems and yield dropped to 1,000 or 1,500 quintals.

The quality of the seedlings used was not the best and those of October and November were lost. Subsequently, there was a growing shortage between December and February.

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The province did away with dry farming in the case of yucca and the Colombian method of planting must be used.

The 1980 plan was for 22.9 caballerias and by 30 September, 17.4 had been planted. The estimated yield in those areas is between 5,000 and 9,000 quintals, although we have harvested fields with 12,000. We want to be the first in taking up the following commitment: The yucca figure should be increased to 15,000.

Care of crops has improved notably. The existence of smaller areas and their location contribute to their checking and supervision.

Another opinion of ours: The RR movement implies the inclusion of specific areas in an enterprise and the commitment of its workers. These areas must observe certain requirements: preparation of the land, irrigation, high-yield seed, the interpretation and incorporation of techniques (fertilizers and their mode of use, plant health and care of crops in general).

In 1982, not a single caballeria should be left without irrigation. In some places, this is already a reality. Experience shows us that with dry farming areas, we cannot guarantee the necessary volumes of production. But it should be made clear: Those enterprises that use large equipment will only be costworthy if they can get high yields. Otherwise, large investments do not pay off.

This observation gives us encouragement for a collective analysis of the use made of available resources. It is a timely clarification. We cannot state that that is the case with Villa Clara, but it is with many other provinces. However, it is a matter of interpretation, not of mere observations. An old saying goes: "A few words are enough for someone with understanding." Nevertheless, it is sometimes worthwhile to repeat because one finally remembers. At any rate, we have a formal commitment for this new year, a commitment to continue the season with our slogan.

Nor do we believe it is time to be bitter. We are not applying any axiom. Rather, we are simply updating the important plan for the 5-year period of providing the people with 300 pounds of tubers a year.

We must wage a direct struggle against the concealment of many problems. Organization becomes a key element in achieving our objective. This is also basic with respect to yields and the daily struggle not to distort harvests.

It was not an accident that Ciego de Avila, Matanzas and Havana were the best in the nation. If one takes the provinces lagging behind as a point of reference, all possible doubts disappear because the differences are very clear. It is merely good sense to recognize this and try to copy what is good.

Answer to Question 3

Harvesting work has improved with the introduction of the single-row harvester made in the country. It has been used in picking and loading.

The province has embarked upon a campaign to free tuber areas from obstacles so as to be able to do semi-mechanized harvesting in general.



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The Hoyo de Manicaragua Enterprise still persists in leaving crops in the ground during the harvest.

Note: The reporter told comrades of her lack of agreement with the preceding response because the only thing that could have reflected a drop in harvest losses was the numbers, which are magnificent when comparisons are made.

Response to Question 4

Villa Clara plants some 60 caballerias in spring sweet potatoes, rotating with tobacco and potatoes. The Valle de Yabu has averaged 6,000 quintals. That production has increased far beyond demand.

Tomatoes were shifted from the best land and replaced by crops with priority: potatoes and bananas.

In recent years, we have planted late, failing to take advantage of the month of November. There is also the climatic situation and the result is that seeds are affected and the preparation of the land hindered. This season, there has been an improvement in the composition of varieties, with tomatoes INRA-1 [National Institute for Agrarian Reform] and Nova-1.

Note: Poor tomatoes! Now we remember the old saying that it is the fault of the tomatoes. The rains came and did their work and the Revolution in Yields is 6 years old. At any rate, we continue to plant late and it is repetitious to state that this ostensibly hurts yields. In Villa Clara, the figure dropped from 5,715 quintals in 1979 to 4,041 in 1980 with a larger area in use.

The problem is one of technology, of following proper techniques. One must plant when it is the proper time. When schedules are not followed, one can simply forget about a good yield.

This seems to be almost a vicious circle: A given crop is replaced by another with priority. It is acceptable to emphasize basic crops: potatoes, malanga, plantains and yucca, but without exaggerating. The 5-year plan sets forth very enlightening goals: to pay attention to the foregoing tubers without neglecting other crops that the people want and have to consume.

We are going to express a very personal opinion. If the success of a crop in a province is proven because of the mastery and interpretation of techniques, why assign plans to those who do not have an excess of good land, forcing them to grow other crops whose techniques they have not mastered? Would it not be better for one group to supply another, which in turn will provide whatever they are best at offering? This would be like creating a kind of trade between provinces, such as that which exists between nations.

Response to Question 5

Potato yields remain at approximately 5,000 quintals per caballeria on the provincial level.

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The annual planting program will be followed using 50 percent national seed and 50 percent imported. Growth possibilities depend directly on production of seed potatoes. Three enterprises are specializing in this task.

One simple detail: The previous reply fits in perfectly with our argument above. First of all, the Revolution in Yields plans the followed established yields for potatoes: imported varieties: 8,500, 7,000 and 6,500; national variety, 6,000.

Response to Question 9

Coffee production and yields have improved. The planting program was exceeded and the Jibacoa coffee enterprise was in first place nationally.

To date, everything seems to indicate that this crop is recovering and may return to its true stature.

Plantain planting is going well, despite the wind and its damage to plantations.

The proportion for the close of the year 1980 is 81.4 fruit and 35.8 tubers [sic]. The goal for 1981 is to establish them at approximately 50/50.

Note: Concerning the downward curve for roasting plantains, one enterprise director told us: "The struggle to produce in quantity affected us." That dizzying, necessary period did exist. Bananas cost little and yield is high. However, we can fortunately now be more selective. Naturally, the former have half the yield of the latter. Nevertheless, we must be vigilant and manage the balance which Villa Clara proposes: 50/50. It is true that the people prefer the roasting plantains and should enjoy it.

There are already ways to stimulate the crop. We must stop destroying the plantain trees after 3 years. There is talk of giving a bonus to enterprises with rootstalks that have been producing more years. A well-cared for plantation can last and have up to 8 years of productive life.

Response to Question 10

The need for labor has gradually been solved by using students. Workers are assigned to areas. Priority has been given to plantains, potatoes and tomatoes.

Note: When the labor force is well used, one thing can be observed: better productivity. One of the main problems to solve in the provinces is assigning men to a given area, thereby destroying the myth that there is not enough labor. With poor organization and scheduling, there never will be enough. If we want high yields, we must make workers stable on their piece of land. In the future, they will be the best defenders of that land and will consider it their place of work.

Response to Question 13

We do not mean that Villa Clara has dropped in the RR movement. On the contrary, we believe that it is stronger every year.

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Our province has incorporated all potatoes consumed into the RR and this figure cannot be compared with provinces that have larger suitable areas. The amount of land available for the crop is a barrier to growth.

The flatlands do not have underground water. The figure for the incorporation of plantains rises slowly and is limited. We do not believe it is an element for comparison.

We can say that the Agricultural-Livestock Trade Union has systematically taken seminars to the workers. We are pleased to have performed this task and to have maintained rigid discipline in the Movement throughout these 5 years, without bonuses or economic incentives.

The province has faced a labor shortage that began in 1977. This has been overcome through the schools. The Movement has been affected in recent years by the fact that men do not tend to stay in growing areas.

Opinions of the Agricultural-Livestock Trade Union

The National Agricultural-Livestock Trade Union is completely involved in agricultural tasks and provides its continuing cooperation. This balance is achieved to the extent that it is demanded by the socialist society. The union is the representative of the working class.

We talked with Rene Penalver, its secretary general, in order to learn some of his ideas about the RR Movement. He was somewhat pushed for time and we engaged in a battle against the clock.

[Penalver] We are involved in a fight to obtain high yields. In some cases, we have to give up our old ways and habits. Every year we meet and make commitments. The three best provinces are not the best by accident. They are the economic result of an effort, of a great deal of work.

There are deficiencies that depend on man and they are subjective in nature. Where problems exist, there must be a substantial change.

[Question] How is the RR Movement going?

[Penalver] We have made progress but we are not as far as we should be. Granma is one of the provinces that has made the most progress recently. It is in Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba and Las Tunas where the greatest efforts must be made.

[Question] What is the specific situation of Villa Clara?

[Penalver] First of all, there was the local experience of the former Las Villas Province and then we had to respond to an appeal from Sancti Spiritus concerning the application of the wage reform. Then we tried to extend the work to other places. That was 6 years ago. Reception was good and the results are obvious.

Unfortunately, in Villa Clara, the Movement declined. The original place has been left behind. Nevertheless, it has reacted and we are certain it will overcome this situation, determined to regain its initial place.

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[Question] What will happen in the future?

[Penalver] There are things we could have done better. In the future, there is only the absolute obligation to guarantee the people of proper food and all the provinces must continue to strengthen the RR Movement. But we must work with even greater speed.

With these words, the interview came to an end, confirming the importance of expanding the movement but without losing quality. It is essential to break with rigid patterns and take qualitative leaps. We finally took our leave of Penalver because other business awaited him.

One More Point

There are 1,161 caballerias of government land and 114 of privately owned land included in the RR Movement. This is frankly little. It is true that any enterprise that becomes involved knows it has its work cut out for it, but what it needed is more dedication, more systematization, more organization. The RR tolerate no patchwork or carelessness.

The Movement is demanding and involves efficient work. It signifies the coordination of all factors. Quite rightly, we feel, many fear the pressure.

The Agricultural Union cannot lag behind and must see that workers are acquainted with micro-emulation and the incentives established for high yields. It must hold technical seminars for workers.

In our tour of the two Villa Clara enterprises, we detected some problems. The fertilizer machine was leaving a bag unused after every completed furrow. The supervisor told us that there were problems with distribution. His reply made us realize the lack of supervision and its effect on wages and costs. Even such small details cannot be accepted by the RR.

Some furrows were not straight. The new machinery was blamed and it was pointed out that the operator's difficulty was caused by the wetness of the ground. We believe that there is a lack of observation and vigilance because of the factors involved.

The province explained its opinions and the national meeting of the RR Movement gave its in turn. The Agricultural Union expressed its views. They are all here in black and white. Our own is simple: Villa Clara has an obligation to itself to tighten the screws. Some provinces have gone ahead, causing it to be left behind. The province has rough spots to iron out, matters to be defined. But with efficiency, the high yields will be obtained, compensating for the country's technical investments in agriculture.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PROBLEMS IN SUGARCANE MILLS DISCUSSED

Manuel Martinez Prieto Mill

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 2 Jan 81 pp 16-19

[Article by Andres Rodriguez]

[Text] The first thing that should be said is. . .

. . .that we spent 3 days visiting the Manuel Martinez Prieto sugar mill, located in Havana, practically a half hour from La Rampa. The purpose of the visit was to get an inside view of the present situation and the possibilities for the immediate future.

During the 1976-80 5-year period, this mill (one of 16 that produce refined sugar in this country) produced the following results:

It processed 250,564 tons, while the plan for that period called for a total production of 290,370 tons. Thus, there was a shortfall of nearly 40,000 tons of sugar.

A detailed analysis reveals that the production plan was not fulfilled in 4 out of the 5 years of that period, and that 1980 was the worst year, with only 69 percent of the plan being fulfilled.

The mill was also an oil guzzler: During the 5-year period, it consumed 8.6 million gallons (in round figures) above what was allotted, or 204,760 barrels of the precious black gold. Such profligacy was not foreseen when consumption plans were made.

But we have presented this view to give the reader a general impression, without trying to indulge in flagellation or useless self-analysis, when the causes are well known to the parties involved and are beginning to be duly confronted.

The other side of the coin is that the Martinez Prieto mill, despite its location in the national capital, was ignored for a long time while the buck kept being passed. But as we said before, that is now history. Why have we come, then, to the only sugar mill in the capital?

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As we already said, we have come to. . .

. . . get an inside view of the present situation in the mill-refinery, specifically, to hear the opinions of its workers, or at least some of them. In this manner we are beginning a series of articles in which we will closely follow the development of the Martinez Prieto sugar mill until it clears away the last stumbling block. Right now those obstacles are very difficult because they have been building up over the years. We hope to make a fundamental contribution to this necessary effort.

Consequently, we came with a specific methodology in mind: to talk with small groups of workers in this first phase of the cycle we hope to begin. Specifically, we hope to talk with groups of:

--Women.

--Young workers up to 27 years of age.

--Fifty-year veterans.

--University graduates and mid-level technicians who recently joined the enterprise.

--Workers from the area of the refinery.

And we talked with all of them. They are only 35 of the 895 workers in the industry, only 4 percent of the total. We cannot expect them to represent the views of the entire industry, and that assumption was not made at any time. These are simply the opinions of these 35 human beings, of both sexes, belonging to different categories, age and interest groups, people who breathe and move around every day in the mill-refinery.

In sum, what did they say?

They said so many things that. . .

. . . we were forced to sum up their comments, without leaving out the essence. Naturally--and herein lies the usefulness of the dialogs--the views expressed did not coincide entirely, as if the whole group were standing at attention. On some questions there was unanimity, while there were majority opinions on others, and individual patterns could be discerned on other issues. As we said before, we made a synthesized selection of all the views expressed, and we present them here for the reader's perusal.

I. Unanimous Opinions

--The new management, as well as the political organizations and the union, are all interested in bringing the mill up to par and reversing the neglect of recent years.

--In the short time that the new management has been present, the environmental conditions of the mill have been improved, although there are still some problems with lighting, cleanliness and sanitary services.

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--There has been a significant improvement in the workers' dining room, in terms of hygiene, display and discipline, as well as food quality.

--Preparations for the 1981 harvest, already underway, have been very good, much better than last year's.

Universal Phenomenon

There was no spontaneous reference to socialist emulation, that important tool in increasing production and productivity. No one was able to say how this refinery ranked among the nation's sugar refineries in last season's emulation program.

Another Universal Phenomenon

More than 5 years ago the Ministry of the Sugar Industry gathered together the technicians of its 15 refineries in order to make a detailed analysis of the situation of refined sugar production in this country. As a result of that meeting, a 10-point strategy was approved to strengthen and organize that production.

On our visit to the Manuel Martinez Prieto mill-refinery, we asked everyone about the status of that strategy. But none of the 35 participants was aware that it existed. Some confessed that this was headline news for them.

II. Majority Opinions

--It is not true that burned sugarcane hampers the refinery's production. What does hurt it is delays in burned cane harvesting.

--More explanation should be given to workers regarding the scope and benefits of wage reform, as well as the different ways of resting made possible by the creation of the fourth brigade. There is still confusion on this issue.

--The on-the-job evaluations of personnel have been quite rigid, with no consideration given to current conditions for theoretical qualification at the plant. In view of this situation, comrades who are lacking in theoretical training but know how to operate the equipment in practice, do not approve of the tests given.

--The new management has done well to pay special attention to university graduates who recently joined the enterprise. There is just one exception, which will be covered in the individual opinions.

Contradictory Phenomenon

Several university technicians who came recently to this mill expressed concern about the icy reception they have gotten from some experienced workers. They say these workers give them the cold shoulder when it comes time to share what they have learned over the years. Certain experienced workers, however, complained about the theoretical approach of the university graduates, and their apparent disdain for accumulated experience.

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III. Individual Opinions

--There should be stronger ties between the Jose Antonio Echeverria Higher Polytechnic Institute (ISPJAE) and the Manuel Martinez Prieto sugar mill, which are located only a block from each other. In this respect, ISPJAE, which has a sugar technology school, could provide assistance, particularly to the mill's technical personnel, in terms of bibliographic material and the exchange of information on sugar research being carried out at the school.

--More attention should be paid to the refining clarifier workers, as they do not have sufficient training or education to operate the clarifiers efficiently.

--The only problem with the treatment of recent university graduates was mentioned by chemist Celia Rosa Feito Novo, shift chief of the laboratory. She complained that in the 5 months she has been working in the industry she has not been given sufficient training in her line of work, so her technical development has been limited.

Here are our considerations. . .

. . .which could justly be called preliminary, since we have just begun our little series of articles on the current situation and subsequent development of the Manuel Martinez Prieto sugar mill.

As this sample of opinions shows, there is a general atmosphere of acceptance toward the new management. But the latter, at the same time, is aware that it has inherited a difficult task, and consequently people will judge it more by its deeds than by its words. Still, as the author noted during his visit to the plant, there are some hard feelings resulting from that legacy.

Although many workers still consider their sugar mill something of a Cinderella, they also understand that there is no fairy godmother capable of transforming present conditions overnight. To be perfectly honest, the last time we were there--not long enough to expect more--we witnessed the beginning of the transformations. This has been acknowledged in conversations with "Bohemia economica." They are watching hopefully to see if the new pace that has been set will continue and not suffer the setbacks that are so discouraging and disheartening to the people.

The new management showed us those first steps (a mere drop in the bucket compared to what still has to be done), and spoke enthusiastically and confidently of the new projects. Martinez Prieto has become a high-priority mill in the nation. Since this work needs to be followed up, and we have scheduled a return visit in March, we think the best alternative is to wait for next time and then assess what has been done and what influence it has had on production.

In arriving at these preliminary conclusions, we have decided to omit any commentary on the opinions expressed by the workers we talked with. In this first phase of the follow-up, we feel it is appropriate to let the reader see these opinions as they were stated in essence, without the distraction of our interpretations.

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Nonetheless, we would like to take a moment to discuss one of the individual opinions, because we found it so interesting. It concerns the importance of stronger ties between ISPJAE and Martinez Prieto.

What technological benefits would the mill receive from such a link with an institute only a block away, which has a sugar technology school? Similarly, what would it mean to ISPJAE in terms of its sugar research, for example, to have a mill-refinery so close at hand?

Why isn't this mutually advantageous proximity used to the utmost? Why not tear down the Great Wall of China that has been isolating them in their respective territories?

We think this individual opinion merits due consideration by all the parties involved. We hope they will take heed.

As for the rest, we will return to Manuel Martinez Prieto in March 1981, at the height of the refining season.

We Talked with 35

"The evaluations have been quite rigid. Workers with a low level of theoretical training but who know how to operate the equipment in practice, do not approve of them." (Rolando Abreu Gomez, assistant)

What Some of Them Said

"There should be more ties between ISPJAE and the mill." (Maria Eugenia de Zayas, chemical engineer)

"We are still on this little boat, and we don't want it to sink." (Aurelio Ortiz Meireles, a fifty-year veteran of the industry)

"The sugar scales should be inspected better." (Rita Maria del Toro, shipment weigher)

"The management treats us well, but there are still some in the plant who give us the cold shoulder." (Manuel Almeida Estevez, chemical engineer)

"We need more personnel in the laboratory for the fourth brigade. The estimators, for example, will not be able to rest if this problem is not solved." (Olga Nelys Aleman, laboratory assistant chemist)

"There are poor operations in the mill." (Alina Cruz Amador, refinery technician)

"How can it be the operations' fault if the raw material is of poor quality?" (Carlos Chala, Angola filters operator)

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Pinar del Rio Mills

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Jan 81 p 63

[Article by Andres Rodriguez]

[Text] Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Party Politburo, arrived at the 30 November sugar mill at noon last Friday 9 January at a time when the plant was shut down, although its young proletarian workers were in good spirits.

"We cannot imagine this type of industry progressing without having to overcome problems," Camacho commented to the director of the mill, an experienced sugar mill administrator who was understandably concerned, but not discouraged.

In that spirit, the veteran administrator, Orestes Torres, gave a detailed report to his friendly visitor of the wide range of problems that have arisen to date, including the frog that got into the generator area and brought the plant to a halt for several hours.

What are these difficulties, exactly? Well, as Camacho remarked to Torres, they are the problems that naturally beset a recently opened factory that requires a period of adjustment to iron out wrinkles and reach complete maturity. This mill, moreover, has a complex system of automation like no other in the country, with the exception of the Batalla de Las Guasimas mill in Camaguey, the twin of 30 November which was also built by the Revolution.

The automated equipment cannot be operated skillfully right away, only 20 days after the plant has begun operations. But the important thing is, as we said before without any exhortative intentions, the upright spirit of the workers, a group of men and women with an average age of 26 and an average of 9 years of schooling.

It is frankly encouraging, as well, to note that despite the intermittent nature of the mill's operation, appreciable quantities of bagasse, the natural fuel of all sugar mills, are obtained. This accumulation was responsible for the industrialization of that sugar cane byproduct. Camacho Aguilera mentioned that fact as he toured the various sections of the modern enterprise in Pinar del Rio, accompanied by a group of comrades including Luis de la Fe Miguez, vice-minister of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry (MINAZ).

Of course, the latter insisted on the need for the young employees of the 30 November plant to become accustomed now to keeping the sugar mill clean, even amid the problems that currently plague it. The vice-minister's insistence might seem a bit exaggerated at this initial stage, but we think it is valid and lasting if we bear in mind the fact that sugar mills produce food, so that hygiene, as everyone knows, is one of the fundamental factors in achieving the optimal harvest that Fidel called for at the closing session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Sugar Workers Union.

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Overview of Pinar del Rio Harvest (Other Mills)

--Manuel Sanguily: This mill has the best yields in the province, with just one hitch: excessive consumption of additional fuel (firewood). It also has the best appearance and hygiene, and is one of the few mills in the country, perhaps the only one, with granite floors under the machinery and where the sugar cane is crushed.

--Harlem: Although this mill was affected by the winter rains, it is having an acceptable season.

--Pablo de la Torriente Brau: It suffered a serious breakdown which paralyzed it for 8 days at the beginning of the harvest, but since then it has gradually gotten back to normal.

--Jose Marti: This plant is the surprise of the province, with its high, stable production and overall work levels much higher than those of previous seasons, when there was a prolonged crisis. Its production of extra fine sugar must be stabilized further.

The overview of the Pinar del Rio sugar harvest presented in this "Tandem" section will be expanded soon. Look for it in upcoming issues of BOHEMIA.

Curious Phenomenon

While in the three enterprises on the north coast of Pinar del Rio the proscribed variety Barbados 4362 has been attacked by rust,, at the Jose Marti mill to the south, there are no symptoms of that disease. Nor has the southern mill suffered smut, although it has suffered a highly susceptible variety, Barbados 42231.

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