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RODRIGUEZ REPORTS MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AT CEMA MEETING

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Jan 77 FL

[Excerpts] Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo, vice president of the Council of State and permanent Cuban representative to CEMA, has announced at a news conference that important matters concerning national development will be discussed at the 79th CEMA Executive Committee meeting to be held in Havana 18-19 January.

The Politburo member said the upcoming 79th CEMA Executive Committee meeting is an indication of the preferential attention which member countries are giving to development needs of the Cuban economy. He also said at the news conference that during the meeting several topics will be discussed especially concerned with relations of cooperation with our country.

Deputy prime ministers of CEMA-member countries and Yugoslavia, an associate member which participates in Executive Committee activities, will attend the 79th session to be held at the Habana Libre Hotel. CEMA Secretary Nikolay Fadeyev will attend the meeting in the company of experts and members of the CEMA Secretariat.

Matters concerning Cuban economic development, among other matters, will be examined at the 79th CEMA Executive Committee meeting. In the first place, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez explained, the construction--with resources of member countries--of a new nickel plant in the Las Camariocas region in the northern part of the eastern provinces. Other matters to be examined include the status of research being conducted for the utilization of surplus bagasse from the sugar industry in the manufacture of pulp and white paper which will not only serve to cover our requirements but also to create surpluses for export.

There is also interest in assessing during the 79th CEMA meeting the possible complete participation of member countries in our country's citrus fruits development with a view toward satisfying the domestic market and supplying fresh and processed fruits to CEMA-member countries. Along with these plans that are already under way, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez explained, the consumption of Cuban sugar in CEMA-member nations also will be discussed as well as possibilities for making the Cuban sugar industry a source of collaboration.

Reports on Cuba's Achievements

Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 77 PA

[Text] In a news conference held Tuesday, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez reported that the agenda for the 79th meeting of the CEMA Executive Council, to be held in Havana 18-19 January, includes important topics connected with national development. Dr Rodriguez is a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, vice president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers and Cuba's permanent representative to CEMA.

Asked by Havana Radio about Cuba's most important achievements since it joined CEMA, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez answered: [begin recording] When we in the party's leadership decided to join CEMA, we knew that the benefits would not be immediate because obviously we were not prepared to take advantage of all these benefits due to the differences I have just mentioned.

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Last night, the PINU decided to withdraw from the Advisory Council to the chief of state in view of that body's lack of power to make decisions and the government's refusal to heed its recommendations while it drifts farther away from publicly announced commitments for the benefit of the people.

During a press conference at PINU headquarters today, the members of the national leadership defined the Advisory Council as an organization obeying those already in power.

National PINU delegate Miguel Andonie Fernandez said the party did not believe it had lost a position from where it could voice its opinions and recommendations. The Advisory Council has no legal force or legislative powers; neither is it a determining factor in the decisions of the chief of state concerning national problems. Therefore, it cannot serve as a basis of political support. Andonie pointed out that it was necessary for the government to appoint an integrated cabinet since the next 3 years will be years of transition; that in order to lead the country to a truly functional constitutionality it is necessary to unite its people.

Waleska Pastor Melghem said that when the military government was headed by Oswaldo Lopez Arellano, it supported reforms and sought a better and more just distribution of wealth through specific work plans which made many people believe there would be no return to the past.

In this respect, Jose Toribio Aguilera pointed out that second stage of the military regime, headed by Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, has shown a marked tendency toward the rightwing. It is even trying to destroy the social gains. He said the government is planning to amend the agrarian law and has abandoned the National Development Plan. There is growing immorality among civilian and military functionaries. It also neutralized the educational reform, and even provokes the public sectors.

Another PINU member, Rodolfo Luna Moran, said the National Development Plan was nothing but a myth used by the government to appease the demands for social justice of the Honduran people who, after Lopez Arellano's reformist attempt, refuse to return to the past.

Finally, Jorge Ramon Alcerro discarded claims that the Advisory Council will be weakened by the withdrawal of PINU. We have only alerted the government to retrace its steps and to open the path which Hondurans may follow without fear of making a mistake on their way to development.

All participants at the press conference agreed that the solution to the transition stage is not in establishing a civilian-military junta, but in defining a government program promoting unity.

They added that to them unity does not mean the mere distribution of government posts; that, in fact, the PINU members working in the cabinet--Enrique Aguilar Paz, health minister, and Leonardo Callejas, natural resources minister--were free to continue in their posts.

We know they are aware of their political positions and that they will voluntarily quit their posts whenever they consider they are no longer fulfilling a logical function in the government, Miguel Andonie Fernandez said.

The members of the PINU national leadership pointed out that the task of returning the country to a constitutional order will not be easy, that the identification registry system is not trustworthy, and that the task ahead will therefore be most difficult. They even agreed that the political institutions and electoral bill will not be passed as submitted, as this issue will be decided by the Armed Forces Superior Council and the government cabinet.

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In practice, CEMA began as an organization of socialist countries which, although with different levels of development--the level of development of Romania, Bulgaria, the GDR and Czechoslovakia, not to mention the USSR, is not the same--had already taken very important steps toward industrialization, including those countries which were somewhat behind.

Therefore, the programs CEMA had already prepared and had underway were programs in which we could not be included on a short-term basis. But we viewed our participation in CEMA as an inexorable consequence--and this is the way we said it then--of our bilateral relations with CEMA member countries. These relations were already very extensive, but called for a further step because in many cases bilateral relations required the participation of other countries and thus led to multilateral relations. Thus it became advisable to frame these multilateral relations within CEMA. Furthermore, this decision was a result of our socialist political inclination.

For this reason and although not really prepared for it, we took this step knowing that in the longrun it would be beneficial. We also realized, and this is one of the most obvious results, that Cuba's mere participation in any of CEMA's commissions or subcommittees would give our cadres and our industrial and national economic leaders very direct knowledge of the realities, problems and possibilities connected with CEMA, as well as the techniques for the building of socialism. Cuba, by itself and isolated, could not try to formulate all the solutions, especially since it has never been advantageous to discover something which had already been discovered. We were not planning to spend our time digging where others had already found the treasures and could easily transfer their experiences to us.

Let us recall that CEMA has 25 commissions, if I remember correctly--is it only 23--CEMA has 23 commissions, there has been a reduction in the number. Most of these commissions are currently discussing very advanced programs. There are commissions for the chemical industry, the ferrous metal industry, the nonferrous metal industry, the energy industry and for the principal branches of current industrial, technical and scientific activities.

Naturally, many of these commissions deal with problems which are completely alien to Cuba, and on occasion we do not participate. But we participate in most commissions and we have participated in most of them to our great advantage. Since the time we first joined these commissions, our cadres have been receiving the benefits of their scientific and technical discussions, learning the methodology used to solve certain problems of either the Soviet or Cuban chemical industries, no matter how difficult. Our cadres have been receiving the benefits of their scientific and technical discussions, learning the methodology used to solve certain problems of either the Soviet or Cuban chemical industries, no matter how difficult. Our cadres immediately began participating in problem-solving through the research of subjects which are of interest to us. They were also provided with the opportunity to keep abreast of all the problems which sooner or later must be solved, even if on a smaller scale, in our country.

We have taken yet another step. In many of these commissions we are already participating in order to receive direct benefits, be it in the energy or chemical industry. We have requested participation in several of these commissions. For instance, we are already members of an institution which operates with the member countries [words indistinct] of CEMA. It is the one concerned with electronics and electronic computation. As is known, Cuba has had some experience and has made important achievements in this field through the digital research center, which built the minicomputer used in various areas of the Cuban economy. Cuba is getting ready to participate in this field and to contribute effectively to the manufacture of minicomputers for all the member countries. So this is one very concrete achievement.

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Now, when we first joined CEMA, we raised the problem of the nickel industry. The immediate and concrete result has been the signing of a general agreement among member countries. Practical steps are being taken, and there is a new Soviet plant in Punta Gorda in northern Oriente Province which is expected to produce some 30,000 tons of nickel. Nearby, in the Camarioca region in the same mining area of northern Oriente, construction of a CEMA plant will begin. This will be our country's fourth nickel plant. Once it is fully operational, it will increase, together with the other plants, production figures well above 100,000 tons of nickel. So these are some of the results.

In addition, there is a committee for technical and scientific cooperation. There is a wide range of subjects in this area which are of interest to Cuba. Member countries have approved them and we are developing them with the cooperation of the member countries' scientists and technicians. [end recording]

SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE CONDEMNS PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD PROPOSAL

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[Text] The Cuban Committee of Solidarity with Puerto Rican Political Prisoners has denounced the attempts of U.S. President Gerald Ford to convert Puerto Rico into the 51st state of that nation. In a communique released in Havana, the committee asserts that the U.S. President's proposal is obsolete since the world currently is aroused by the struggles being waged by peoples against the last vestiges of colonialism. The communique closes reaffirming Cuban solidarity with the fraternal Puerto Rican people in the face of such a condemnable imperialist attempt.

CPUSTAL Condemns Proposal

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[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Latin American Workers Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity, CPUSTAL, has released in Havana a communique of solidarity with the Puerto Rican people and especially with the United Labor Movement in the face of President Gerald Ford's attempts at annexing that country to the United States. Gerald Ford's proposal violates the Puerto Rican people's rights to their independence and self-determination and demonstrates the cynical colonialist position of Yankee imperialism, the communique says in one of its paragraphs.

The CPUSTAL Executive Secretariat concludes urging its affiliate labor federations to intensify their protest actions against the U.S. Government, develop the most comprehensive solidarity with the Puerto Rican struggle against the annexation threat and demand the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners in the United States.

WFTU, CPUSTAL DELEGATIONS VISIT TRADE UNION SCHOOL

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[Text] The delegations from the World Federation of Trade Unions and Latin American Workers Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity currently in our country have visited the Lazaro Pena [Labor] Cadre School. Enrique Pastorino and Pierre Gensous, WFTU president and secretary general, respectively, and (Benedicto Sergueira) and Orestes Ibanez of CPUSTAL were accompanied during the visit by PCC Central Committee member Ursinio Rojas.