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Cuba Trends



Directorate of Intelligence

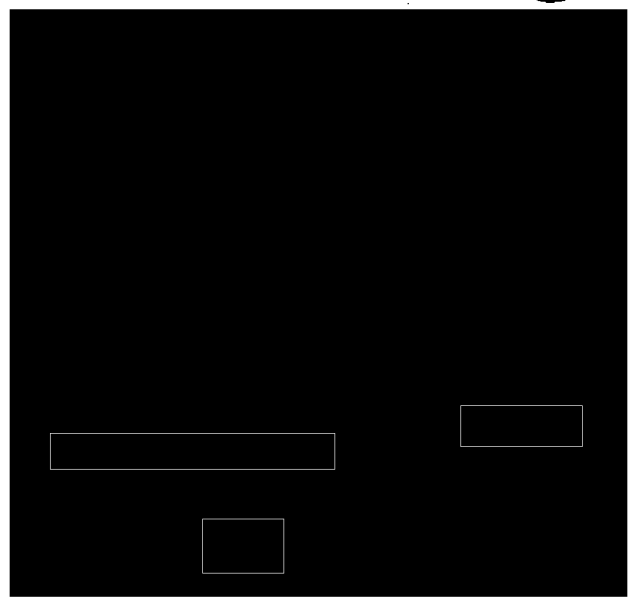
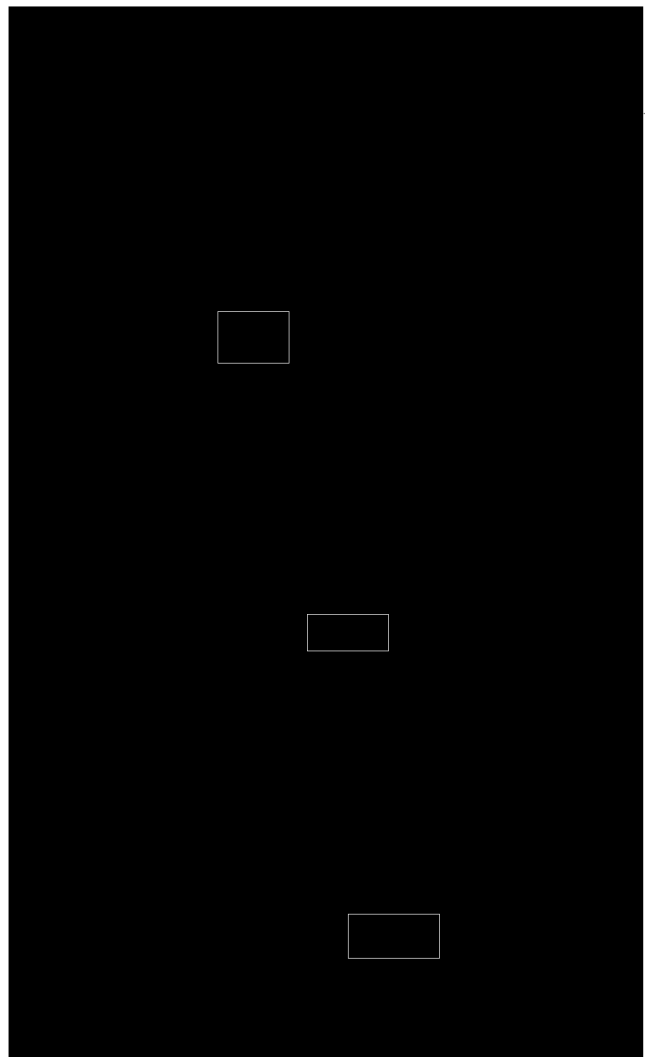
CUBA TRENDS

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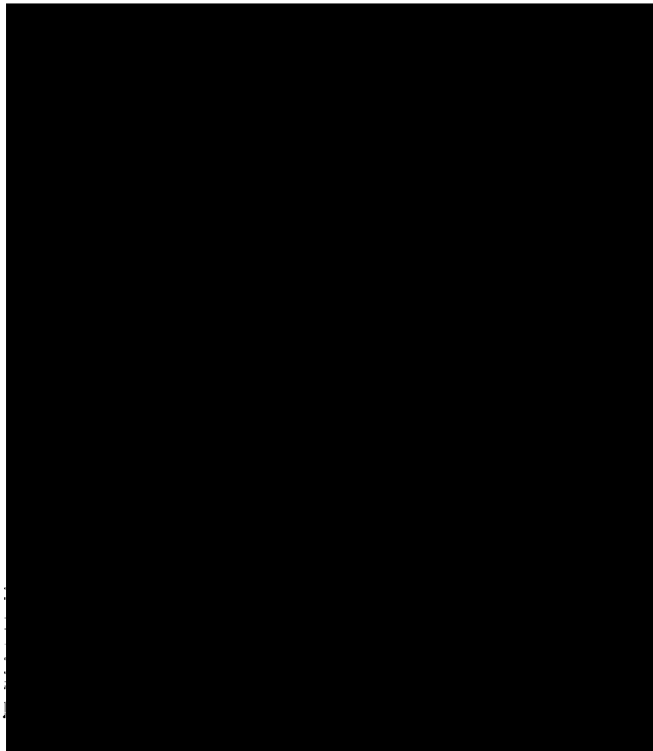
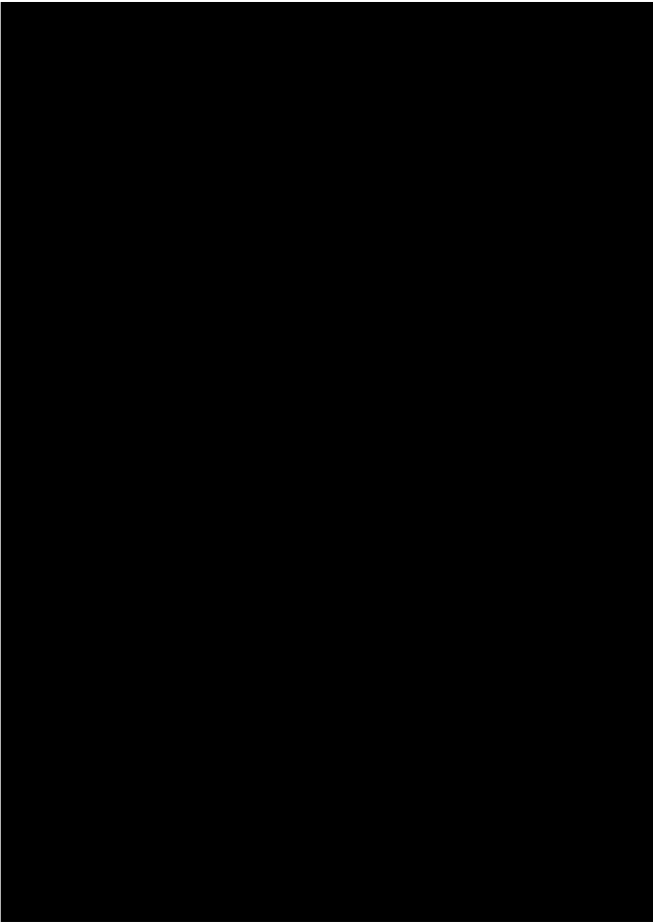
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CUBA TRENDS 1994



DOMESTIC POLICY



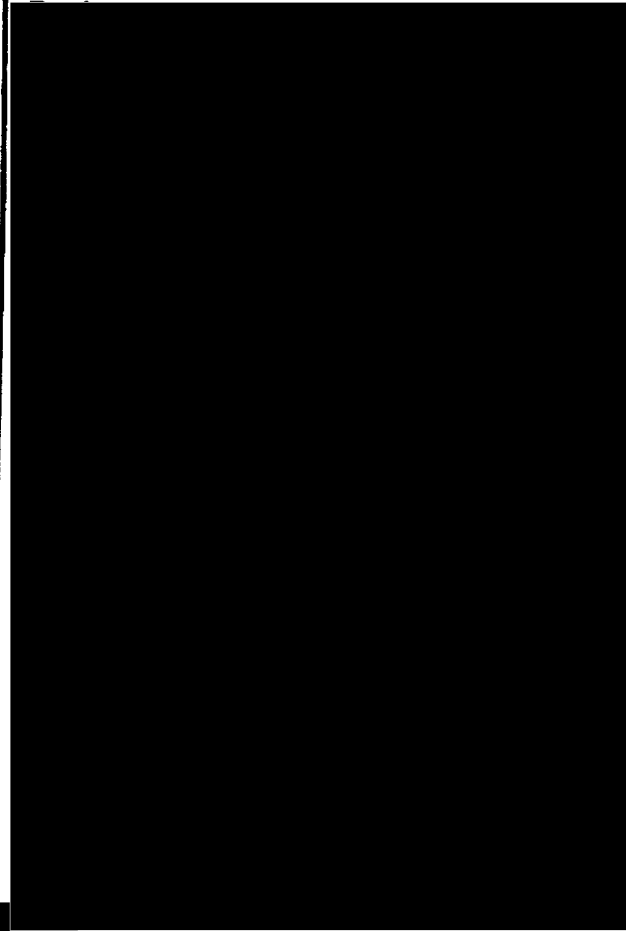
Human Rights Update

The government had some difficulty in December managing the international aspect of human rights. Once again, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution critical of Cuba, which Havana denounced as a product of US "manipulation" and "pressure." Sounding a faintly conciliatory note consistent with past policy, Foreign Minister Robaina said Cuba would not oppose the appointment of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights if the office were free of US influence. Havana was pleased that a group of visiting deputies from the European Parliament condemned the US embargo, but was uncomfortable with their statements linking aid to improvements in civil liberties, a formula that may bring more talk than progress. [REDACTED]

The state had an easier time at home, and was rational enough not to shoot itself in the foot—as it did last year—by taking out its anger over an unfavorable UN resolution on the activist community. [REDACTED] reported a few cases in December of dissidents turning on each other, principally over personal jealousies and charges of links to state security. The Cuban Catholic Church issued a

(see DOMESTIC POLICY, page 4)

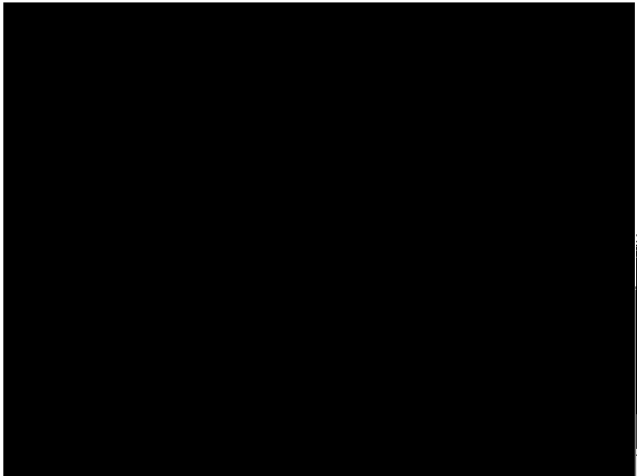
THE ECONOMY



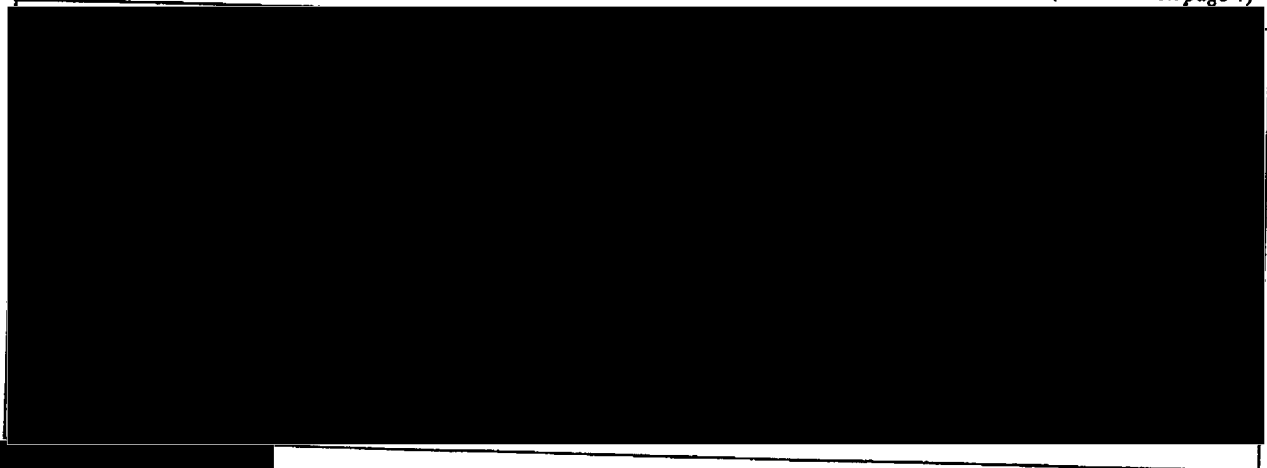
Castro on the IMF

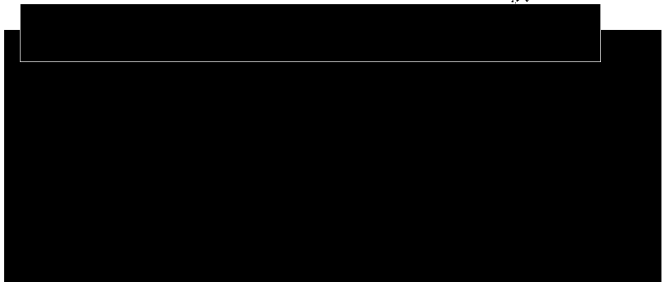
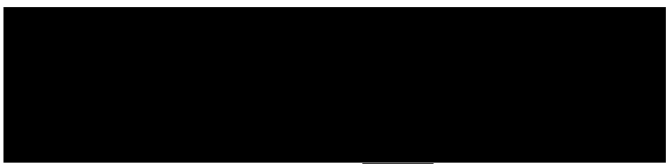
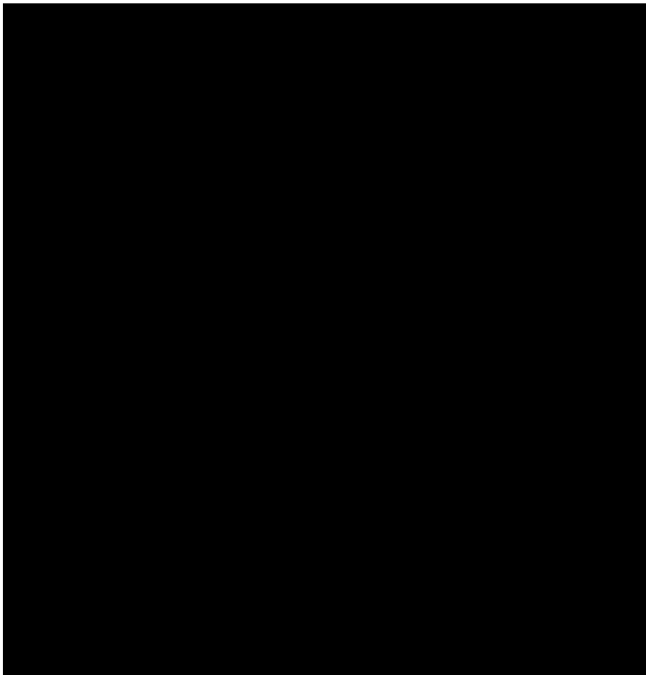
"The measures imposed by the IMF [on Latin American countries] simply annihilate them. That which is recommended by the IMF and all those international credit organizations under the imperialists' dominion is simply compassionless, inhuman, the most brutal violation of human rights possible. It is incredible that it is happening before the eyes of the whole world."

—1 April 1992



(continued on page 4)





In Brief...

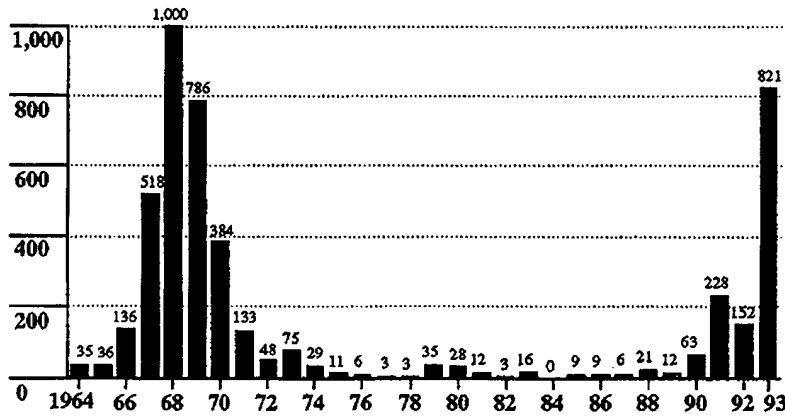


DOMESTIC POLICY

(from page 2)

Christmas message welcoming official plans to hold talks with selected emigres, expressing hope that it will lead eventually to "real internal dialogue." That seems unlikely at this point, but Havana was undoubtedly relieved that the church chose not to repeat the call it made in September for economic and political reform. In a separate, less publicized statement, Havana Archbishop Jaime Ortega reaffirmed the right of the church to comment on politics, noting that Christ had done so and was put to death for it. [REDACTED]

Asylum Seekers Entering USNB Guantanamo Bay



Seaborne Emigration Highest Since 1980

In December, 358 Cubans reached the United States by sea, continuing a year-long trend of increased illegal migration. The monthly figure was more than double the 143 who arrived the previous December but less than the 425 recorded in November. Some 3,650 made the trip in 1993, roughly 60 percent above the total for 1992, which until now had the highest number of migrants since the Mariel boatlift of 1980. [REDACTED]

Guantanamo Refugee Figures Largest in Decades

The Naval Base took in 136 asylum seekers in December, a figure unsurpassed since the 1960s, up from 84 in November and a mere 12 the past December. The latest arrivals pushed the total for 1993 to 821—the second highest ever, exceeded only by the 1,000 who reached the base in 1967. [REDACTED]

Dealing With Defections

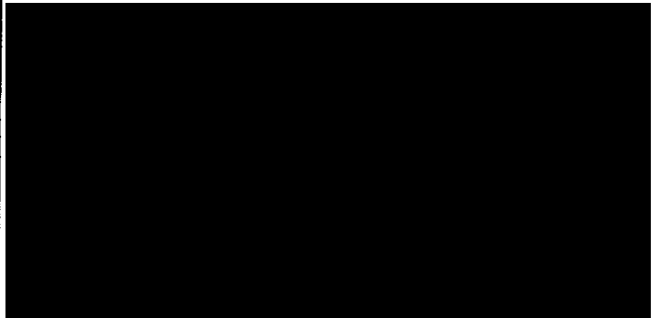
The government has had occasion recently to air both sides of its policy toward Cubans abroad. The defection of 24 athletes and 11 other members of an 881-strong sports delegation in Puerto Rico in December elicited the traditional hard line. Conrado Martinez, president of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute, claimed Cuban athletics were better off without "fakers, waverers, and traitors." Fidel Castro was more restrained, focusing in a speech on the "immense majority" who returned home "despite all the promises, offers, and enticements made in these difficult times." Hoping to reduce embarrassing defections, Havana has made some accommodation for those who could easily live better overseas. Certain athletes and cultural figures, for instance, are being allowed to spend more time outside Cuba. Ordinary emigrants have been given a virtual blanket pardon as part of an official campaign to boost remittances. Having once dismissed exiles as "worms," the media now attribute their flight largely to economics. [REDACTED]

The tenor of Havana's reaction to individual escapes is often tied to the prominence they receive in the United States. Seeking to avert unfavorable publicity when two children died aboard rafts bound for Florida in December, a Cuban newspaper played a familiar tune, blaming Washington's "hypocritical and opportunist immigration policy, which stimulates illegal departures while it delays and restricts normal visa procedures." The case of Fidel Castro's natural daughter, Alina Fernandez Revuelta, may prove to be an exception, provoking little official comment in Cuba despite extensive international coverage of her arrival in the United States. The Cuban leader once declared himself "allergic to gossip columns," and neither he nor the domestic press discuss details of his private life. Ordinary Cubans are well aware of Fernandez Revuelta, however, as foreign radio stations beamed back the news of her escape almost immediately. [REDACTED]

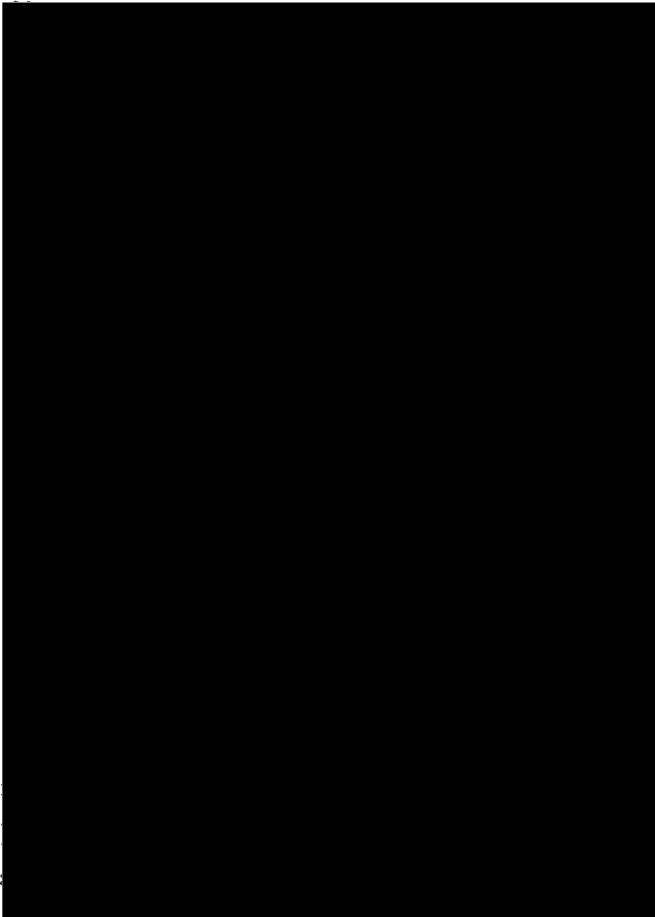
The Cuban Government has extensive experience with defections and takes the majority in stride. The impact of virtually all is limited to a few days of unwelcome international attention, coupled with speculation about regime stability and the extent of popular disaffection. Castro referred in December to "bitter examples of defectors and traitors" and to the "increased number of pessimists who desert and betray," but he is unlikely to be moved by any of it, given his deep-seated contempt for those he believes have bent under pressure. Castro has long been estranged from his daughter Alina, who was the subject of a brief media flap in November 1991, when a Cuban doctor living in Europe said he had received a letter from her seeking his help to leave the

island. The most interesting element of Alina's odyssey—arranged by the same exile group that bankrolled the return flight of Air Force defector Orestes Lorenzo to retrieve his family a year ago—was her use of a disguise and a Spanish passport to fool Cuban immigration officials. With nothing to gain from appearing spiteful, Castro quickly agreed to let Alina's young daughter join her in the United States. [REDACTED]

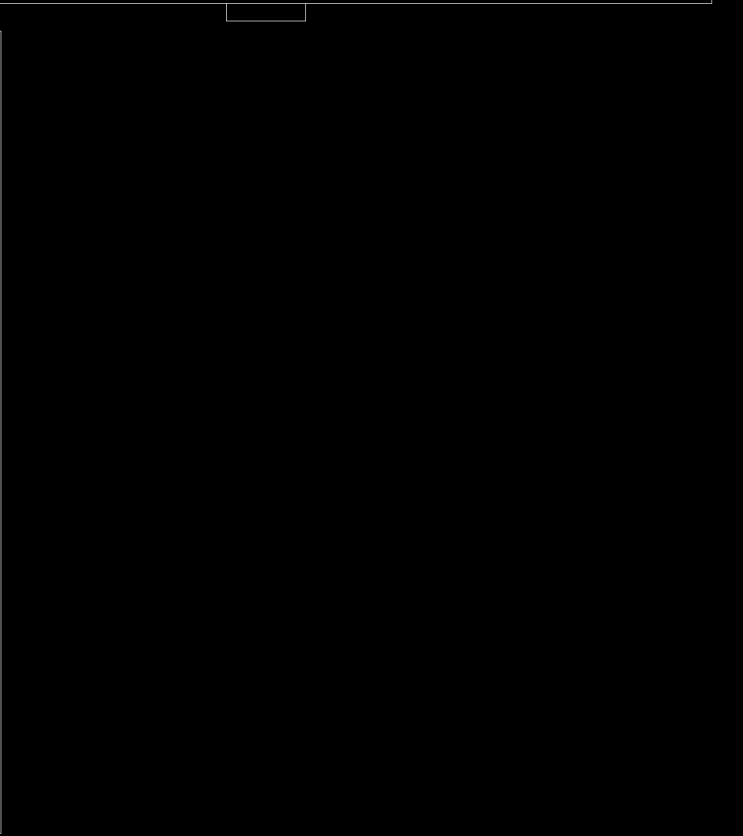
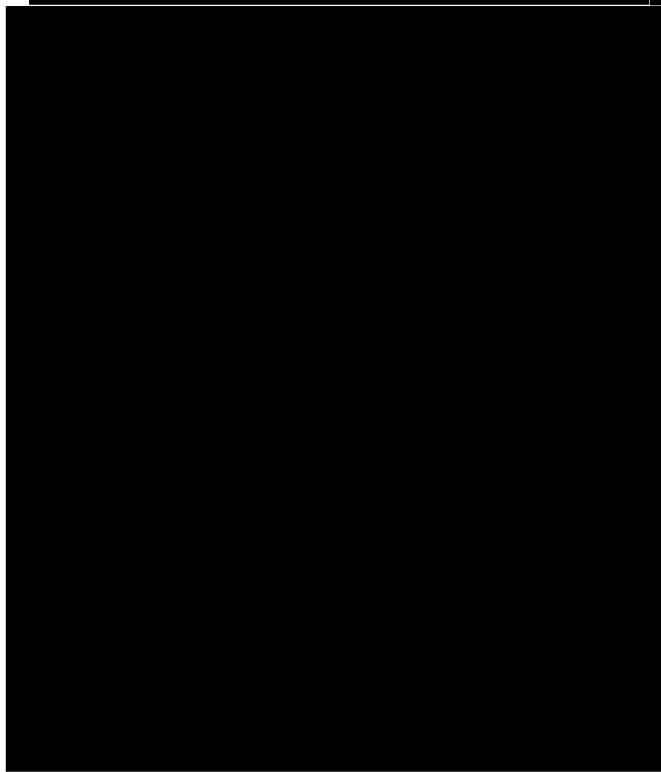
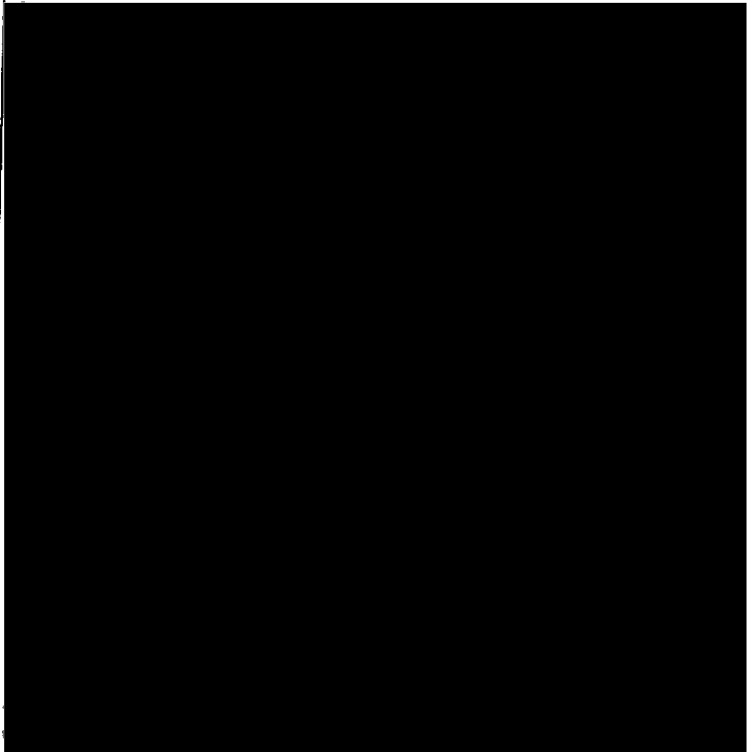
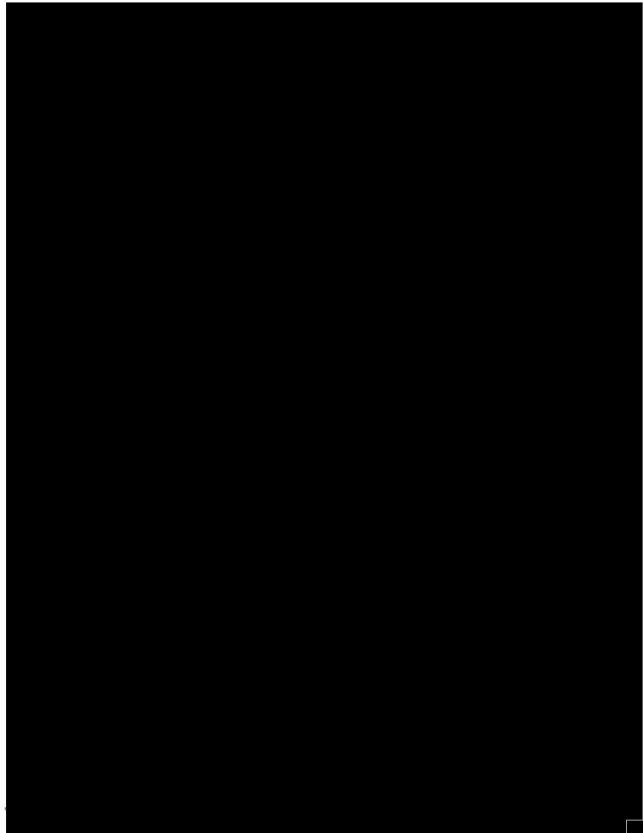
In Brief...



SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS



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VERBATIM

"They criticize us for not having this or that. It is like strangling someone, hanging someone from a tree, and then criticizing him for not breathing."

—Fidel Castro, sharing his perception of US policy with visiting European parliamentarians.

"I keep hearing you talk about control, establishing control. There are some things that are very difficult to control. We must not forget that. There are times when we resort to that magic word, control. Control, control, control. The day would come when we would have to control people at their most sublime moment—when they have to go to the bathroom, when they have to use the bathroom. If we are going to control everything, then let's check and see what color toilet paper they use."

—Fidel Castro, intervening in a National Assembly discussion of economic reform.

"I believe in socialism ((applause)) and despise capitalism. What I feel is repugnance toward capitalists, not prejudice. I have no prejudice; I have repugnance. We have to deal with and talk with capitalists. I have one more thing to add; to paraphrase an old saying: The better I know capitalism, the more I love socialism."

—Castro on the same occasion.

"Thus, Cuba develops unstoppable reforms starting off with mechanisms that, until now, were considered exclusive to capitalism but can be reconciled perfectly with socialism."

—Conclusion of a report reviewing economic policy changes in Cuba in 1993, aired on Radio Havana.


"If there are goods and there is not enough for everyone, those goods must be for the best. They will be given to the best and you will not get any. We have to begin getting used to the idea that everyone will receive according to their work and capacity."

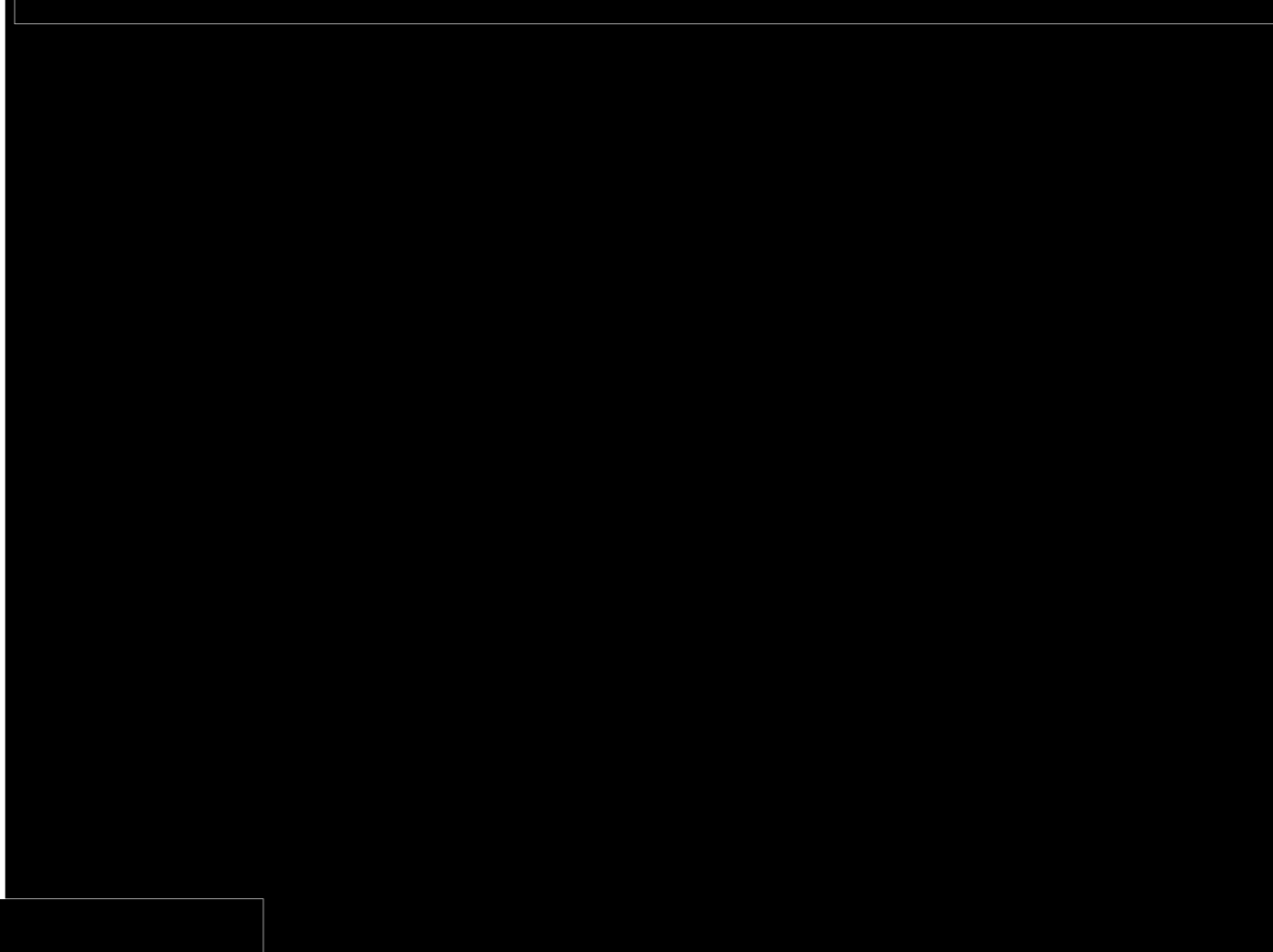
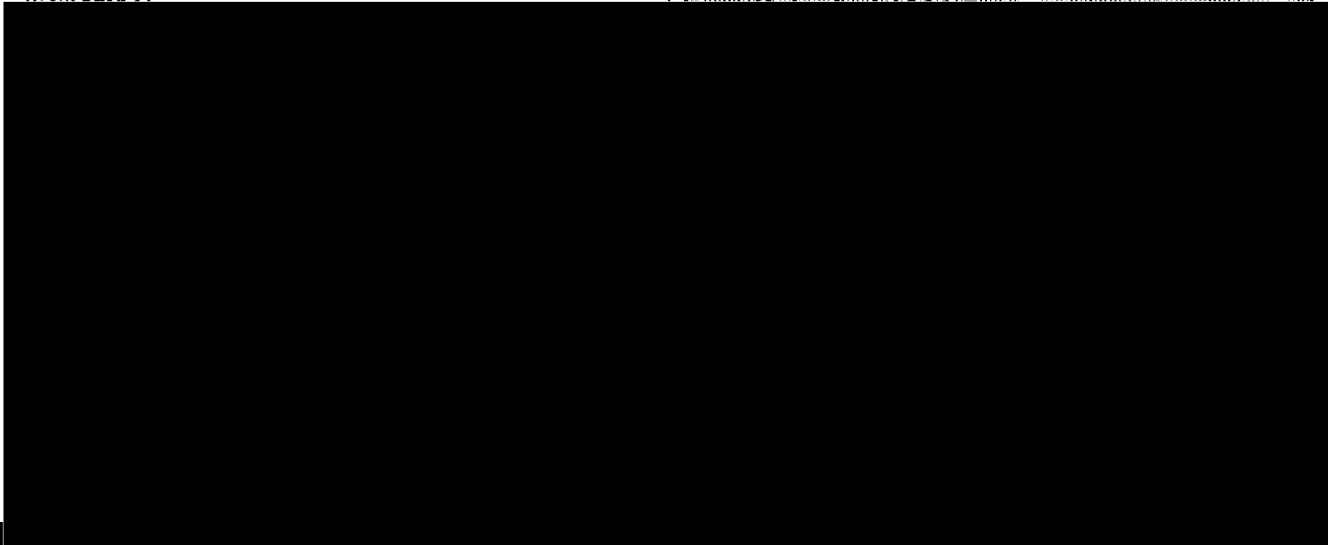
—Politburo member Estéban Lazo, discussing the official shift away from "egalitarianism."

"We are not talking about telling lies. Cuban journalism does not lie. But one thing is true: The Cuban journalist hides truths."

—Cuban television correspondent, speaking on Radio Rebelde's "Straight Talk" program.

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