NEWSLETTER
Amistad

May/Jun 2023 Bi-monthly newsletter of Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto Issue 44.3

Cuba a Magic Word.

Whenever I meet someone and say the word Cuba, I get a positive reaction and a conversation starts.

Last month, on a cold wintery day, I was visiting Allen botanical gardens, Enjoying the tropical plants, I stopped to rest on a bench and said to the young woman sitting next to me - someone I had never seen before - "it is so warm and green here that it feels just like Cuba." She responded that she was going to Cuba in two weeks. Her first visit. She is completing her studies in photography and was planning to take photographs in different parts of Cuba for an end-of-term exhibition she hoped to do at her university. We shared contact information and have kept in touch.



A couple of years ago, before COVID hit, I took a Cuban visitor to Dutch Dreams to enjoy the rich, natural ice cream there. I told the waiter that my friend was from Cuba. That resulted in an extra large, complementary serving for my friend, because the waiter had been to Cuba and loved it.

I happened to mention Cuba to the person replacing the misfitted skylight in my home-based office and gave him a copy of Amistad. As it turned out he had visited Cuba many times and filled out an application to join the CCFA when he finished the skylight.

There is something magic in the word Cuba, which brings out a response, an experience of travel, or a plan to visit in the future. Cuba means pleasure, inspiration, hope and welcome to so many people. I talk about it every chance I get.

Elizabeth Hill



The CCFA will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the 26 of July- Cuba's National Day and recognizing.the historic attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba.

Together with the Association of Cubans in Toronto and the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network, we are planning our annual BBQ and cultural event. Watch for details of the time and location.

Next Rally against the US Blockade of Cuba. Sunday, May 28th.

Meet from 1-2 p.m. in front of the US Consulate at 360 University Avenue (between Queen and Dundas streets)

Join the CCFA Toronto at the rally, to add your voice in solidarity with Cuba.

Also join with us in June - June 25th at 1pm



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US Puts "Shameful Pressure" on Italy for Hiring Cuban Doctors

Wired JA News Team ROME , Mar 24 (Prensa Latina)

The Italy-Cuba Friendship Association (ANAIC) says the United States Embassy in Rome is putting pressure on the Italian Government to explain its hiring of 51 Cuban medical specialists to bolster the country's health services.

In a statement released on Thursday, the Italy-Cuba Friendship Association (ANAIC), also stated that it is an "absurd interference by the United States in the internal affairs" of Italy, by "asking for explanations" on this issue from the sanitary authorities, as revealed by Corriere della Sera newspaper.

According to the news outlet, the US embassy in Rome demanded that the Italian Ministry of Health explain "the procedures for hiring (Cuban) professionals on a fixed term (in Calabria) and their remuneration", to determine if they violate Washington's blockade against Cuba.

The recent pressure put by the US government on Italy for the hiring of 51 cuban doctors was described as "shameful". Fifty-one Cuban doctors arrived in Calabria on December 28th, including cardiologistsm pediatricians and surgeons, who provide services in hospitals in the towns of Locri, Polistena, Gioia Tauro and Melito Porto Salvo.

The president of the region, Roberto Occhiuto, stressed that "we are happy for the opportunity to have highly specialized doctors." The Cuban medical specialists have arrived in Italy to compensate for staff shortages in public hospitals.

Over the years, spending cuts in public health have slowed down the recruitment of new doctors in all Italian regions, especially those facing the biggest health system challenges, like Calabria, in the south of the country.

"The employment of Cuban doctors is not a structural solution. Open calls for physicians is the structural solution and we are doing that," explained Roberto Occhiuto, president of Calabria Region. "It is an emergency solution because I must have, in my tool-box, all the tools to prevent the closure of hospitals."

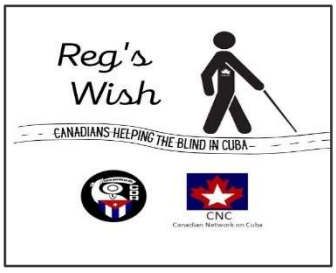
The assistance of Cuban doctors is "a concrete way of giving immediate responses to the needs of citizens, providing adequate services, to guarantee operational health facilities throughout the region and functioning hospitals," the politician said.

On January 8th, the ANAIC, together with other Spanish, French and Swedish organizations, demanded that the European Parliament protect the countries of the region against the extraterritorial application of the "blockade imposed by the world's leading power on a small country in the Third World."

For nearly 60 years, Cuba has been sending healthcare professionals around the world. It does this in solidarity with those in need, but also as part of a concerted campaign of medical diplomacy and to make money to help the country survive an ongoing US embargo.

Since the very early years of the Cuban revolution, its former leader, Fidel Castro, made clear that universal healthcare and internationalism would be key to the country's strategy.

Based on the socialist concept that everyone should have the same opportunities in life, Cuba believed these ideals should be applicable at the global level.
The Cuban programme was born out of an interest to export its revolutionary socialist ideals, first to Africa, and later to South America and the rest of the world. Cuba sent its first long-term mission of Cuban doctors to Algeria in 1963, a country facing a territorial conflict with Morocco. Since then, Cuba has sent more than 400,000 healthcare professionals to work in 164 countries, according to statistics published by the state media.



Join this Campaign!

White Canes for the Blind in Cuba

To Donate,
send an e-transfer to:
donate@canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

Please indicate "**Reg's Wish**" in the subject line
(Info about Reg is in the Mar/Apr 2023 issue.)
Also send a 2nd email to the CNC with the password answer (we need to know the exact spelling in order to receive the donation.)

or

Write a cheque payable to '**Canadian Network on Cuba**' and mail to **CNC c/o Sharon Skup**
56 Riverwood Terrace
Bolton, ON L7E 1S4
(print "**Reg's Wish**" on cheque's memo line)

PLEASE ALSO NOTE the CNC is not a registered charitable organization and does not issue tax receipt

May Day 2023 – Cuban Style

By Susana Hurlich

May Day in Cuba this year will be a little bit different than it has been in the past. Rather than the traditional marches bringing together thousands of people – and in the case of Havana hundreds of thousands of people – in central squares, there will instead be a focus on processions and events in communities and municipalities throughout the country in local plazas and emblematic sites.

Under the slogan *A la Patria Manos y Corazón* (Hands and Heart for the Homeland), the Cuban Workers Central (CTC) is dedicating this Cuban workers' celebration to youth and the efforts being made by all those involved in economic activities to confront the tightening blockade of the United States.

It is in part because of this blockade that this year's May Day will be more locally celebrated. Along with many other nations, Cuba is experiencing a serious shortage of fuel, both gasoline and diesel, as various suppliers have not been able to fulfill their contracted arrangements. But in the case of Cuba this problem is further compounded by the blockade which has made it impossible for the country to build up an emergency reserve. Already by mid-April, Cuba could only cover half of its daily needs for fuel.

This deficit affects everything: public transport, transport of food, ambulances, getting students to and from universities, cooking, etc. In some areas, because of the lack of gas canisters, people are resorting to cooking over makeshift wooden fires in their backyards or in small empty oil drums converted into homemade charcoal stoves.

The consequence for May Day is that there will not be the usual transport to bring people in from outlying communities, or, in the case of Havana, from neighbouring provinces.

But rather than being a limiting factor for Cuba's celebration of International Workers' Day, the CTC has decided that there will be various activities organized at the community level as well as in work and student centres over several days.

In addition to expressing solidarity with workers the world over, there are other important motivations for this year's May Day celebration in Cuba: the 170th anniversary of the birth of José Martí, the 145th anniversary of the Baraguá Protest, the 70th anniversary of the Assault on the Moncada Barracks and the 95th anniversary of the birth of Comandante Ernesto Che Guevara.

In Havana, in addition to activities being held throughout the city, the main act will take place on the Malecón, the Oceanside seawall. Residents from the five central municipalities of Havana – Cerro, Old Havana, Central Havana, Playa and Plaza - will be invited, the majority of whom can reach this area on foot. It is anticipated that some 120,000 Habaneros will participate in addition to the over one thousand international delegates coming from some 30 countries, including Canada's Che Guevara Brigade. Overseas delegates will also participate in the International Meeting in Solidarity with Cuba and Anti-Imperialism: 200 Years of the Monroe Doctrine.

These organizational changes to May Day, due primarily to the lack of fuel, have been very well received by the population. When first announced, some 50 people immediately wrote to Cuba Debate to express their support – almost to a person – for the decision. Comments ranged from saying it was a "big blow to the haters" (those who said Cuba would sacrifice gasoline for ambulances to hold big parades), and that it was a "very coherent and wise decision that reflected the common feeling," etc. One person said it's the first time, in her memory, that there would not be a parade in Revolution Square, but that she would "go by foot…and never denounce May Day!"

Another person summed up the general feeling by writing "This May Day will be even more authentic, without gasoline and without transport but with the same dignity as always."
And that says it best.

Susana Hurlich Havana, 26 April 2023





May Day signs in Matanzas

Photos by Elizabeth Hill April 22, 2023

Canadian Network on Cuba

Tsunami support statement against the blockade of Cuba and against imperialism.

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023

The Canadian Network with Cuba, CNC, brings together 24 organizations in solidarity with Cuba throughout and breadth of Canada and focuses its work on fostering friendship between the peoples of Cuba and Canada. We fight against the inhumane financial, economic and commercial blockade that the USA has imposed on the Caribbean country for 63 years with dire consequences for all Cubans. Quality of life has been drastically reduced, while the programs that the government carries out for the benefit of the population suffer the negative impact of the economic stranglehold of lockdown.

We offer our support to Europe's initiative for Cuba Tsunami against the blockade of Cuba and against imperialism. We're honored they chose Canada to start the tsunami.

We wish you much success in this campaign against the repudiation of the US economic war against Cuban families grows.

Viva Cuba free and dignified!

Samantha Hislop
Julius Fonseca
Co-Chairs, Canadian Network on Cuba

Paris, Apr 21 (Prensa Latina)

Europe for Cuba channel on Friday highlighted the support of several organizations in Canada for the campaign "**Global Tsunami against the US Blockade against Cuba**", to reject that policy across the planet.

Launched on April 3, the initiative calls on associations, prominent figures and citizens to carry out actions from country to country and continent to continent as waves of solidarity with Cuba, a country that has been a victim of an economic, commercial, and financial siege imposed by Washington for more than 60 years.

The CCFA Toronto Sent a Written Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

The CCFA Toronto made a submission to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations to its Universal Periodic Review in April.

CCFA noted the aggression by the United States over the years has violated Cuban sovereignty and human rights that the Cuban revolution had made possible, Elections in Cuba are democratic and fair and have high voter turnouts.

The CCFA noted also in its submission that the US blockade also impinges on the human rights of Canadians because of its extraterritorial reach.

Café Cuba – April 12 Great Success

The film: "Cuba's Life Task" produced by UK solidarity activist, Helen Yaffe is a powerful documentary of the effects of Climate Change, and Cuba's plans to deal with it. Watching it together with CCFA members and friends on April 12 was a very moving experience.

We know how vulnerable the island of Cuba is to hurricanes, and we know that our world climate is getting worse.

We also learned how Cuba listens to the scientists and is doing everything it can to protect itself.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Br82nDfINC8

CCFA Toronto $500 Scholarship for Che Brigade

The CCFA Executive is pleased to announce that Aminah Sheikh is the recipient of the CCFA scholarship to help offset her costs to participate in the 29th Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade to Cuba.

Aminah is an active trade unionist, a member of the CCFA Toronto and will be attending the exciting May 1st event and the international meeting in Havana on May 2nd.

We look forward to hearing all about it on her return.

Cuba: The House on 11th Street between Paseo and A

By Ana Hurtado April 19, 2023 from Havana

I go as often as I can, but now, I have returned to make the thorough tour that I made the first time I went a little over a year ago.

This colonial house, which more than a century ago belonged to a wealthy family, is now a heritage of the Cuban people and of any visitor who wants to visit it. In its walls there is history, there is pain, but above all there is triumph. The triumph of a life full of example and heroism.

In March 2022, when I saw it in front of me, holding his personal items, his photographs, his belongings, his people, the story of the child Fidel to Fidel the adult, I knew that I was here to give my heart. He did not want streets, any statues or monuments, but this place is a memorial to his memory, because friends, fathers, heroes are not said goodbye to. They live in memory. And this center is the memory of an era. It is the memory of a life, of a generation and of a country.

I must have attended almost a dozen events there, but yesterday, Tuesday, April 18, coinciding with the anniversary of Playa Giron, I revisited all its rooms. To get to know it again. To laugh and cry with his exploits, with his anecdotes, with the setbacks of his people but above all with each triumph and victory that he built on each of those falls.

Because no one like him knew how to show that aesthetics is politics. With his decorum, with his respect, with his nobility, with his manners Fidel taught the world how to do politics. He created the school. He taught several generations to think critically in order to believe; he encouraged us to know how to analyze the world in order to understand it. Thanks to him we understand that now the battles also lie in the emotions, apart from ideas and the false and true information.

His ideas are more valid than ever. His socialism, the Cuban socialism, the socialism of his people, still continues to cause irritation in Western countries. His ideas are frightening, because they imply the freedom of the peoples. He himself said: "This is the socialist and democratic Revolution of the humble, with the humble and for the humble."

Why so much fear of equality?

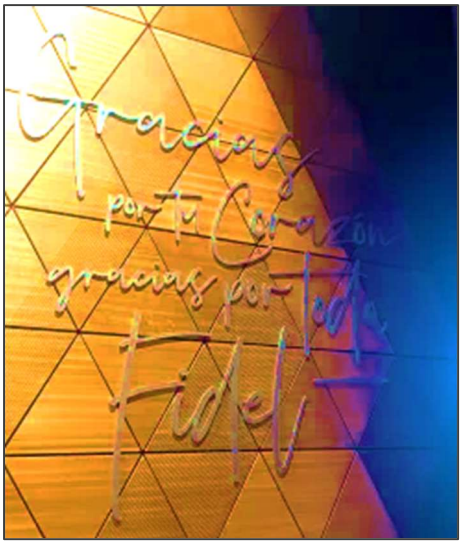
The youth was another of his great responsibilities, and continues to be so for all those revolutionaries who believe



in socialist continuity. Youth and its development in a community space for struggle, physical and virtual. A space of organization based on the ideas of the heroes that reinvent the language of the left adapted to the times, without ever losing the ideological basis.

The challenge today of any world revolution, and mainly of the lighthouse and guide, the Cuban one, is to maintain peace and unity among its members. Hatred is the most fragmentary feeling that exists. And it is through hatred that the enemies of humanism try to perpetrate in this system, a friend of just causes and the dignity of the people.

Fidel endowed his people so that anyone would know how to defend themselves in any war, but especially in the arena of ideological warfare. He taught his people to read so that they could believe and question any situation. If he was capable of endowing an entire country with ideology, could we not endow virtual spaces, new generations and new scenarios with ideology?



It is important enough to always return to him, to follow his legacy, to remember him, to visit his Center and return to the core of his thought.

Fidel is Fidel. He is universal. And that is the strongest weapon that the Cuban people, and the revolutionaries who love him as if he were a father, have.

Source: Cubadebate, translation Resumen Latinoamericano – English

Cuban Athletes Flee the Regime! … of Japan?

By José Manzaneda on 24 April, 2023



Yariel Rodriguez with the Chunchi Dragons, photo: Cubainformacion

Cuban baseball player Yariel Rodriguez played in Japan's professional league, with a millionaire contract, of which he received most of it and a small percentage was destined to the Cuban Baseball Federation, for grassroots sports on the island. The player then received an important offer from a Major League Baseball team in the United States. It would give Rodriguez access to the best baseball in the world and, of course, to an even larger millionaire contract. This could also bring much more money for grassroots sports or the improvement of facilities in Cuba.

Ah… but Sorry, not so fast.
They tell me that this is not so simple. Because in the U.S. it is illegal for a Cuban baseball player to spend even one tax dollar in Cuba and that, in order to be signed in the Major Leagues (MLB), he must not only break all relations with the Baseball Federation of his country, but he must even renounce his Cuban citizenship, even if it is temporarily.

This is full-fledged political blackmail and a violation of the player's liberties that is granted to every player who comes from any other country. Curiously- in the international sports press there is absolute silence on this matter.

So for Yariel Rodriguez, to gain access to his long-awaited contract in MLB, he has abandoned, without warning, his Japanese team, the Chunichi Dragons, in breach of the valid contract he signed.

Now, do we read headlines that say that Yariel Rodriguez has "escaped" or "fled" from Japan? No! It would be a bit strange, because who flees from a country like Japan?

However, let's present a second case, quite similar to the previous one: that of the baseball player, also Cuban, Iván Prieto.

He decided to break, in the same way, with the Cuban Baseball Federation, and for the same reasons: to access an agent certified by the U.S. professional league. However, in this case, as the baseball player did not leave Japan for the USA, but from Cuba to the USA, the headlines do talk incessantly about "escape", "desertion", "flight" and "escape". Curious, isn't it?

These are terms that reflect the unhealthy politicization against anything and everything coming from Cuba -in this case, its sports system-. It is a politicization that the Miami media channels take to the extreme of the ridiculous.

Ivan Prieto, the alleged "fled" player, explained the reasons for staying in the U.S. by saying, "I made the decision completely on the issue of sports and for nothing else, and that's why I stayed away from social networks."

"My decision was made based on the opportunity I was presented to advance in my field, because I want to improve myself. I want to prove myself in a baseball league of a higher level of competition."

But because these statements did not give enough political ammunition against Cuba, the Telemundo channel journalist dismissed his interview by resorting… to the supreme: "In all interviews, both in Cuba and here in the US, (Ivan) Prieto has always thanked God and not the Cuban Revolution, like other ballplayers in the past. Eduardo Yusnaby Rodríguez, Telemundo 51".

The fact is that in Miami they do not ever relax their hatred of Cuba… not even in baseball!

Source: Cubadebate, translation Resumen Latinoamericano – English



Cubans to Contribute to Community Medicine in Vietnamese City

Author: International news staff | informacion@granma.cu 6 April, 2023

Cuban specialists in Primary Health Care will collaborate in Ho Chi Minh City for the development of a community medicine project.

In a videoconference between authorities of the Health Department of the southern metropolis of Vietnam and the Cuban Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP), it was agreed that two Antillean experts will initially travel to Vietnam, and then professionals from Ho Chi Minh City will come to Cuba, in order to learn about the island's experience in primary health care, Prensa Latina news agency has reported.

The Cuban consul general in that city, Ariadne Feo Labrada, explained that the purpose of the Health Department delegation is to work in the communities with family doctors and polyclinics, and to exchange with specialists in areas in which Cuba has many strengths, such as kidney transplants, obstetrics and cancer treatment.

There is also interest in learning more about the technological development of Cuba's biopharmaceutical industry, including the production of vaccines, she added.

At the online meeting, the director of the Ho Chi Minh City Health Department, Tang Chi Thuong, thanked Cuba for its willingness to support them, while the head of MINSAP's Primary Health Care Department, Ailuj Casanova, stressed that community health centers are an important part of Cuba's public health system and operate in urban and rural areas nationwide, at a rate of one per 1,000 households, guaranteeing broad medical coverage.

The exchange responds to what was agreed upon by the member of the Political Bureau of the Party and Cuban Prime Minister, Manuel Marrero Cruz, in his conversations with the leaders of that southern city, during his visit last year.

Translated by ESTI



Cubans Recall Vilma Espín, an Advocate of Women's Rights

Havana, 7 April,2023 (Prensa Latina)

On Friday, the Cuban people recall the life and work of heroine Vilma Espin, a leader in defending women's rights, on the occasion of her 93rd birthday.

Both Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and Primer Minister Manuel Marrero evoked her revolutionary past. "Our fond memories go to the heroine of the mountains and the plains, founder of the Women's Revolution within the Revolution", the Head of State wrote in Twitter.

Marrero expressed also in Twitter that Vilma, as she was friendly called, is admired and loved by the people for devoting her life to the service of the Revolution and the empowerment of women.

Espin was a member of the July 26 Movement, a fighter in the eastern Sierra Maestra mountain range along with the historic leader Fidel Castro in the struggle against the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship (1952-1958).

Under the nom de guerre Deborah, she was a notable clandestine fighter, especially during the November 30, 1956, uprising in eastern Santiago de Cuba province.

Espin joined the Rebel Army in 1958, where she continued to excel in the clandestine movement and her actions in the Frank País Second Eastern Front.

After the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, she worked to guarantee the emancipation of women until she founded the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) on August 23, 1960, of which she was its president.

Espin, who passed away in June 2007, was also the partner in life of Army General Raul Castro who was Defense minister and later president.

Mexico, Colombia & Cuba to Form Regional Medical Products Agency

Source: teleSUR (English edition), 17 March 2023 (EFE)

On March 13, authorities from Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba met to boost the creation of the Latin American Agency for Medical Products (AMLAC), which aims to strengthen regional health capacities and expedite the approval of medicines and vaccines in health emergencies.

At the meeting, directors of Colombia's Drug and Food Surveillance Institute (INVIMA), Cuba's Center for Control of Medicines and Medical Devices (CECMED), and Mexico's Federal Commission for Protection against Health Risks (COFREPRIS) discussed the basis to ensure self- sufficiency of medical supplies & quotas in the region. The AMLAC will boost regional capacities to produce raw materials, medical equipment, and technologies that respond to our countries' public health needs; they said.

Presidents Gustavo Petro (Colombia) and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (Mexico) proposed creating the AMLAC during the 7th Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel highly backed this initiative, stressing that the convergence of health regulations and standards in the region is indispensable to counteract together the effects of the post-coronavirus crisis.

On March 10, Cuba reaffirmed its disposition to make available to LDCs (Less Developed Countries) its advances in science and technology and innovation, including the COVID-19 vaccines, as part of the South-South and triangular cooperation schemes.

Currently, Latin America has seven of the 15 countries in the world with the highest COVID-19 mortality rates per 100,000 inhabitants. As of March 15, this region had registered 68,163,526 COVID-19 cases and 1,351,596 related deaths. In April, AMLAC partners will continue discussions in Acapulco city (Mexico).

Later they will meet again in
Bogota (Colombia)
and Havana (Cuba).

Toronto Statement:

The Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto is active in promoting friendship, respect and co-operation between Canadian and Cuban peoples. We work with other Canadian groups and overseas.

Our activities are directed to:

-providing info/events about Cuba to the public and media — such as culture, health, education, sports, Canada-Cuba relations
-ending the illegal US blockade of Cuba and defending both Cuban and Canadian sovereignty from US interference
-counteracting the deliberate misinformation about Cuba by the US.

Amistad is the newsletter of the CCFA Toronto produced six times a year with volunteer labour. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit submitted material. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial committee. Printed by union employees

We encourage everyone interested to submit media articles, editorial ideas, letters *or* to join the Editorial Committee in person or online.

Deadlines are the 10th

Editorial Committee:
Elizabeth Hill, Sharon Skup, Brien Young,

Time to Renew? If you think it's time to renew your membership but you are not sure if it has expired, check your mailing label. **The month/year when your membership expires is on the label.** *Help keep the CCFA going by keeping your dues up to date.*

CCFA Toronto Application & Renewal Form

Membership includes a subscription to the bi-monthly Amistad Newsletter (6 issues annually).

☐ New member ☐ Membership renewal
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Cuba: 62 Years of Socialism

By Alejandra Garcia April 16, 2023 from Havana



Fidel announces the socialist nature of the Cuban evolution.

Cubans who lived through the first years of the Revolution, remember April 16, 1961 as if it were yesterday. On that day, the corner of 23rd and 12th streets, in the capital's Vedado district, was filled with thousands of people, combatants of the 148th battalion of the National Revolutionary Militias, guerrillas, and leaders of the new-born social process.

That crowd gathered with rifles in hand and were witnesses to a historic day. The Commander-in-Chief, Fidel Castro Ruz, proclaimed, for the first time, the socialist nature of the Revolution.

"Comrades workers and peasants, this is the socialist and democratic Revolution of the humble, with the humble, and for the humble," Fidel said on that occasion, during the burial of the victims of the cruel bombing perpetrated by US planes against the air bases of Ciudad Libertad, San Antonio de los Baños and Santiago de Cuba, which was a preamble to the invasion of the Bay of Pigs.

After his words, everyone sang the words of The Internationale -the official anthem of the workers of the whole world, and the majority of the socialist and communist parties-. Sixty-two years have passed since that day that was immortalized forever in the pages of our history.

The day before the declaration, eight US B-26 bombers camouflaged with Cuban air force insignia departed from Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, and simultaneously attacked the Cuban airfields. Seven people died, and half a hundred were wounded, among them the militiaman Eduardo

García Delgado, who wrote Fidel's name with his blood before his death.

Washington sought to stop the transformations that the country had been undergoing since January 1, 1959 by trying to spread terror and confusion, neutralize the country's scarce air defense capabilities to allow the subsequent landing of mercenary troops and present the event as a fracture in the revolutionary ranks through a media campaign.

Cuba's efforts to normalize relations with Washington, restore trade relations, and live together in harmony and respect, were in vain and this was the last straw as the US made it crystal clear that their intentions was to crush the revolution by any means possible.

"What they cannot forgive us for, is that we have made a Socialist Revolution under the very noses of the United States, and that we defend that socialist Revolution with those rifles," said Fidel on that April 16.



This Revolution is Socialist, corner of 23rd and 12th in Vedado, photo: Bill Hackwell

The actions were executed without a prior declaration of war, and with them, it launched the Pluto operation, orchestrated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In the early morning of April 17, the mercenary landing began at Playa Giron (also known as Bay of Pigs), on the Zapata Peninsula, in the western province of Matanzas. The mercenaries sought to present a supposed provisional government, already appointed in the United States, which would call for US troops to intervene.

This effort failed, thanks to the fulminating victory of the revolutionary forces, as the invaders surrendered in barely 66 hours; on April 19, 1961.

Today, at the downtown corner of 23rd and 12th, leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba, the Government, the State, and the population remembered once again the event that marked the ideological course that still guides us.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano-US



CUBA



CCFA Niagara Wants You

The Canadian Cuba Friendship Association (CCFA) Niagara has been active in friendship and support of Cuba for over 25 years. Now there is need to renew and enlarge the chapter.

In 1959 after Fidel Castro led a successful revolution against the U.S. dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, since then, Cuba has had many accomplishments. Cuba is recognized by the UN as a world leader in health care delivery, in education and literacy, in racial harmony and eliminating poverty. It has made huge advances in science and biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and environmentalism. Cuba is widely recognized for the humanitarian work it provides throughout the world.

Cuba's historical solidarity with anti-imperialist, anti-racist struggles is admired and appreciated throughout the developing world. The life and iconic image of Che Guevara remains an inspiration to youth the world over. Today there is growing disenchantment with capitalism and Cuba offers a lesson in an alternative system; a more humane system based on socialist values.

For the life of the revolution the U.S. has attempted but failed to overthrow the Cuban government with an embargo, sanctions, terrorism, assassination attacks and military invasion. The U.S. does not want a neighbouring socialist country to succeed as an inspirational alternative to the U.S. system of market capitalism.

CCFA Niagara stands in friendship and solidarity with Cuba by creating understanding through educational and cultural exchanges, and by sponsoring Che Guevara work brigades, while working against the U.S embargo/blockade which seeks to strangle the Cuban economy and turn the people against their government.

In a recent speech, President Daiz-Canel said, "if they want to make a gesture towards Cuba, if they really are concerned about the people, if they want to solve Cuba's problem: lift the blockade and let's see how we do.

Membership comes with a $25 annual membership fee, $30 family, and members receive the Amistad newsletter, which is an informative educational tool on Cuba's Revolution and Society.

To learn more, you are invited to visit our web site www.ccfaniagara.ca. If interested in membership call us at 905-227-6432, or e-mail info@ccfaniagara.ca.

Give us a name, a telephone number or e-mail and we will be in contact.

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