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by governor.state.ms.us; Sun, 01 Sep 2002 13:18:44-0500
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by e3000b.state.ms.us (8.10.0/8.10.0) with SMTP id g81IHrB06028
for [governor@governor.state.ms.us](mailto:governor@governor.state.ms.us); Sun, 1 Sep 2002 13:17:53-0500 (CDT)
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To: [Undisclosed-Recipient:pimout4-ext.prodigy.net;](Undisclosed-Recipient:pimout4-ext.prodigy.net;)
Subject: Speech given by President of the Republic of Cuba on August 30, 2002
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Speech given by Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba, = at the ceremony to celebrate the completion of the repair, expansion and $=$ building of 779 primary and secondary schools in the capital. Guanabo, = Habana del Este, August 30, 2002
$=20$
Dear construction workers;
Dear teachers and students:
Fellow residents of Havana and Cuba:
$=20$
Today, as in the glorious days of the Bay of Pigs when our brave = soldiers took less than 72 hours to wipe out the mercenary troops who = had invaded our country to destroy the Revolution, our construction $=$ workers, supported by the people living in the capital, have achieved a = great victory.

A program was planned and implemented over a 20 -month = period; it was to cover 779 primary and junior high schools in our = capital city,
where a profound and unprecedented type of educational revolution that $=$ will serve as an example to the world was initiated. Of this figure, = which includes all the schools at those educational levels, 734 were to = be completely renovated and expanded, 12 were to be rebuilt, and $33=$ would be newly built. The number of classrooms needed for the program $=$ amounted to 3,287 , including the rooms needed for computer labs.

On April 27, 2001, the first 100 renovated schools were = inaugurated; by October 26, 2001, 202 had been renovated; on April 10, =

2002, renovation number 302 was inaugurated; and on June 29 renovation = number 402 was inaugurated. On that day, there were still 377 schools = needing to be renovated, rebuilt or built.

The program had to be completed by September 1, 2002. We had only $62=$ days available in which to finish the program of the 779 on time and = with all the requisite quality. The 779 included 33 new schools, some of $=$ which had not even been started.

Why such an urgent effort? It was not just a whim or a desire to break = records. It was simply that, as is traditional, classes would begin in = the first few days of september. An enormous effort to train thousands = of urgently needed teachers in intensive courses had been made and the = aims of their training had been fully met. All the classrooms already = had their televisions and all the schools had their computer labs. The = 1,200 urgently needed teachers who had been trained in intensive courses $=$ to teach computer skills were ready. Actually, the fact of having $20=$ months for the program of renovating and building thousands of =
classrooms and other buildings seemed to be a perfectly adequate amount = of time to complete our task without any great pressure.

As it happens as often as not, some of the cadres = responsible for the job were overconfident. The actual fact is that, as = the school year was about to begin, it could be seen that the program = was behind schedule; calculations of the time and effort necessary were = overoptimistic. Moreover, although it was possible to work day and night = during the summer, because that was school vacation time, the excessive = heat and the rains could present not insignificant obstacles.
$=20$
We became aware of the need for a titanic effort as = renovation job number 402 was inaugurated =BEexcellent work on an = important and beautiful school in La Lisa=BE with work still to be done = on 377 schools and only nine weeks to do it. All the materials were = available. We had to complete the program on schedule, do it under the = strictest quality control, and without using work forces from projects = given priority because of their economic importance or the value of the = services they were called on to provide.

The extraordinary organizational capacity of our Party and = Young Communist League, of the people of the Havana and of its = grass-roots organizations was put to the test. We had the enthusiastic = support of ministries and many agencies and companies which, from the = outset, had shown great enthusiasm in supporting a plan which would = benefit all of the city=92s children.

The constituencies, People=92s Councils, and People=92s Power Assemblies $=$ in each municipality devoted all the time and support needed to the = program. The contribution of teaching staff, school principals and = municipal education directors was particularly outstanding. The = children $=92$ s involvement was very moving; they inspired joy, passion and = courage in everyone, doing the tasks within their capabilities any time = of day and sometimes in the early hours of the morning. Parents and = their children were also there at night or in the early hours of the = morning.

On more than one occasion the number of construction $=$ workers, both professionals and volunteers, who worked in one day = totaled almost 40,000 people. Several provinces sent reinforcement = construction workers, people chosen for their good morale and abilities. = No one ever lost his or her confidence or certainty that we would = succeed.

At 9:00 p.m. today we begin this ceremony, only three hours = from the deadline to complete the building program. Earlier today,
at around midday and at 2:15 p.m., work on the last two schools was = completed. A sport $=92 \mathrm{~s}$ reporter would say that the Olympic race between $=$ the time available and the building program for the 779 schools was won = by the latter in a photo finish.

Hundreds of thousands of people took part in one way or another in this = shared project. Many working days stretched to 16 and 20 hours. Those $=$ involved in our endeavors in July and August were as well looked after = as our resources allowed. Counting breakfasts, lunches, dinners and = snacks, 30 million meals were supplied. $=20$

The total costs of the two-year school building program = reached $25,851,000$ in U.S. dollars and 215, 827,000 Cuban pesos. The $=$ value of the buildings, restored, expanded or newly built can be = calculated at no less than two billion dollars. Their social and human = value cannot be calculated. The 20 students per classroom at the primary = level puts our country way ahead of all other countries in the world at = this educational level.

And while this was going on in the capital, other titanic = efforts by construction workers and the people were continuing in the $=$ battle to totally repair the damage and destruction caused by Hurricane $=$ Michelle and to meet the deadline and do so with quality. The cost of = this was much higher but equally essential.

In our city, as happens in any large undertaking, there were $=$ contradictions, deficiencies, arguments, strong criticisms, reprimands = and discussions. There is no doubt that this contributed to some $=$ rectifications, reorganization, strategies and tactics developed along = the way, ingenious solutions to various unforeseen problems and = situations where our engineers, architects, building technicians and = chief project designers showed their talent.

Much will be written and thousands of anecdotes will be told = about this noble and selfless epic which will bestow such great benefits = on our homeland. The experience gained will be of great use in other $=$ plans and projects. The Revolution=92s ambitious educational program = will continue to expand throughout the whole country.

As I bring my words to a close today, it only remains for me = to say that the battle was won with great dignity and courage. We can = feel proud of the feats we have accomplished.

However, a basic principle must be laid down. Today, everything is very = beautiful in the educational institutions, which look like new. As is $=$ normal in any construction works, problems will doubtless arise in some = of those recently built, rebuilt or renovated. There will have to be a = labor force ready to find urgent solutions to those that arise at $=$ whatever point. And the most important thing: the relevant mechanisms = must be organized in the Capital, at the municipal and people=92s $=$ council level, in order to immediately carry out repairs in any school = that needs it. Appropriate, accurate, certain and completely rational = and economical calculations must be made, with care to put aside and = protect the materials needed, so that the 779 schools in the building $=$ program just completed are always kept in the top-notch, heartening and = beautiful state they are in as we declare them open today.=20

A veritable culture of protecting and preserving the = schools, their resources and equipment must be encouraged in the $=$ children, the teachers, parents, local residents and our people in = general. Nothing more noble, human, motivating and useful than a school = can be created.

We must ensure that what fills us all with joy today will = never become, through laziness or irresponsibility, a source of sorrow = and frustration.

Let us safeguard what has been achieved. Let us be worthy of the feats = we have shown we can accomplish!
$=20$

Long live the revolution!
$=20$
Long live socialism!
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Patria o muerte!
$=20$
Venceremos!
$=20$

Information Office
Cuban Interests Section
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buildings, restored, expanded or newly built can be calculated at no = less than=20
two billion dollars. Their social and human value cannot be calculated. = The $20=20$
students per classroom at the primary level puts our country way ahead = of all=20 other countries in the world at this educational=20
level. <o: $\mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}></$ FONT> $</$ SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}>$
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construction workers and the people were continuing in the battle to = totally=20
repair the damage and destruction caused by Hurricane Michelle and to = meet the=20
deadline and do so with quality. The cost of this was much higher but = equally=20
essential.<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN></P>
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discussions. There is no doubt that this contributed to some $=$ rectifications, $=20$
reorganization, strategies and tactics developed along the way, = ingenious=20
solutions to various unforeseen problems and situations where our = engineers, $=20$
architects, building technicians and chief project designers showed = their=20
talent. $<0: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{FONT}></$ SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}>$
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1">\  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \ =20 </SPAN>Much will be written and thousands of anecdotes will be told = about this=20
noble and selfless epic which will bestow such great benefits on our = homeland. $=20$
The experience gained will be of great use in other plans and projects. = The= 20
Revolution=92s ambitious educational program will continue to expand = throughout $=20$
the whole country. $\langle 0: \mathrm{p}\rangle\langle/ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}\rangle\langle/$ FONT $></$ SPAN $\rangle</$ P $\rangle$
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$1^{\prime \prime>}$ \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \ =20 $</ S P A N>A s$ I bring my words to a close today, it only remains for me to = say that=20
the battle was won with great dignity and courage. We can feel proud of = the=20
feats we have accomplished. $<0: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}></$ FONT $></$ SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}\rangle$
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style=3D"FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN-US; =
mso-bidi-font-family: 'Times New Roman'"><FONT=20
size=3D3>However, a basic principle must be laid down. Today, everything = is very=20
beautiful in the educational institutions, which look like new. As is = normal in=20
any construction works, problems will doubtless arise in some of those = recently=20
built, rebuilt or renovated. There will have to be a labor force ready = to find=20
urgent solutions to those that arise at whatever point. And the most = important $=20$
thing: the relevant mechanisms must be organized in the Capital, at the=20 municipal and people=92s council level, in order to immediately carry = out repairs=20
in any school that needs it. Appropriate, accurate, certain and = completely=20
rational and economical calculations must be made, with care to put = aside and=20 protect the materials needed, so that the 779 schools in the building $=$ program=20
just completed are always kept in the top-notch, heartening and = beautiful state=20
they are in as we declare them open today. <o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN $\ll / P>$ $<\mathrm{P}$ class=3DMsoNormal style=3D"MARGIN: Oin Oin Opt; TEXT-ALIGN: = justify"><SPAN=20
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$</ S P A N>A$ veritable culture of protecting and preserving the schools, = their=20
resources and equipment must be encouraged in the children, the = teachers, =20
parents, local residents and our people in general. Nothing more noble, = human, $=20$
motivating and useful than a school can be =
created. $<0: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}></$ FONT $></$ SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}>$
$<\mathrm{P}$ class=3DMsoNormal style=3D"MARGIN: Oin Oin Opt; TEXT-ALIGN: =
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through laziness or irresponsibility, a source of sorrow and=20
frustration. $<0: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{o}: \mathrm{p}></ \mathrm{FONT}></$ SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}\rangle$
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style=3D"FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN-US; = mso-bidi-font-family: 'Times New Roman'"><FONT=20 size=3D3>Let us safeguard what has been achieved. Let us be worthy of = the feats we=20
have shown we can accomplish!<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN $></ \mathrm{P}>$ $<\mathrm{P}$ class=3DMsoNormal style=3D"MARGIN: Oin Oin Opt; TEXT-ALIGN: = justify"><SPAN=20
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style=3D"FONT-FAMILY: Arial; mso-ansi-language: EN-US; =
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size=3D3>Long live the revolution!<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN></P> <P class=3DMsoNormal style=3D"MARGIN: Oin Oin Opt; TEXT-ALIGN: = justify"><SPAN=20
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size=3D3>Long live socialism!<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN></P>
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size=3D3>Patria o muerte!<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN></P>
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size=3D3>Venceremos!<o:p></o:p></FONT></SPAN></P>
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