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To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:@pimout4-int.prodigy.net;>
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Date: Sat, 1 Jun 2002 11:13:36 -0400
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KEY ADDRESS BY DR. FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, =
AT THE OPEN FORUM HELD IN SANCTI SPIRITUS PROVINCE. MAY 25, 2002
=20
Dear compatriots:
=20
           I will use just a few minutes to greet you and to say a few =
words, this time basically addressed to the American people.
           Our struggle is not, and will never be, aimed against the =
American people. Perhaps, no other country receives Americans with the =
respect and hospitality displayed by Cuba.
           We are men and women of ideas and not a community of bigots. =
In Cuba we have never cultivated hatred against the American people or =
blamed them for the aggressions perpetrated by the governments of that =
country. That would have run contrary to our political doctrines and our =
internationalist conscience, both well-proven throughout many years, and =
increasingly rooted in our ideas.
            If =93Humanity is Homeland=94, as Marti said, we are =
citizens of the world and brothers and sisters of all peoples on Earth; =
their children, their youth, their elders, their men and women are also =
ours, regardless of everyone=92s economic, political, religious and =
cultural beliefs.
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although very much influenced for decades by a barrage of distorted and = manipulated propaganda, have been improving every day, particularly = after 80% of Americans supported the return of the kidnapped child to = his family and homeland.

Relations between the Cuban people and the American people, =

I have always felt, based on my reflection on the most = recent history of that country, that the American people can support a = bad cause --as it has done on not few occasions-- but only when it has = been misled. Albeit in the case of the Vietnam war, the painful daily = images of the dead American youths that were brought home highly = contributed to build an awareness about how useless, unfair and absurd = that war was, the situation with the child was different. However, when = the American people learned, through its own media, of the cruel = injustice being committed against that little child, it did not hesitate = and took sides with justice. That, Cuba will never forget!

It hurts deeply to see the efforts made to mislead that = essentially noble people with the diabolical fabrication that the = laboratories where our dedicated scientists create, develop and produce = new medicines and therapy treatments, that prevent or cure diseases, = spare suffering and save countless lives, are developing bio-weapons=92 = research and production programs. At times, there is also talk about = Cuba=92s capacity to produce them.=20

All throughout history, any scientific or technical = development has served for good or evil. In our country, however, no one = has ever thought of producing such weapons. Our scientists have been = educated for the sacred mission of protecting life and not for = destroying it.=20

Cuba has twice as many doctors per capita as all of the = highest developed nations. No country has given, or is giving, more = support to other peoples=92 health care services, free of charge, than = Cuba and no other has saved more lives. Thus, our people do not have, = nor could it have, any inclination to become a bio-weapons producer.

Sentiments are more important than knowledge, and above all, = truth should be sacred.

Two weeks after the infamous slander, Cuba was arbitrarily = included in a list of states sponsors of terrorism. Rather than = concerned over the moral or political damage that could derive from such = an evil accusation, we are hurt to think that any American could be = misled into believing that any damage to himself, his family or his = people could come from Cuba.

Neither a single drop of blood has been shed in the United = States, nor has an atom of wealth been lost there in the 43 years of the = Cuban Revolution, due to a terrorist action originated in Cuba. The = opposite is true, since thousands of lives have been lost as well as = huge amounts of money due to material damages caused by actions against = our homeland originated in the U.S. territory. The American people = deserves to be informed about this, instead of being saturated with lies = and slanders.

The only truth is that the American people could receive = from Cuba vaccines, medications and medical procedures that could surely = save numerous lives, or help them recover their well-being and health, = once the absurd ban on trade is lifted. If this modest cooperation is = possible, it is due to the fact that Cuba got rid of illiteracy a long = time ago and it has attained a high educational level.=20

Cuba is increasingly becoming a country with not only great = intellectual and artistic talents but also with many educators, = scientists and hundreds of thousands of people capable of producing = wealth with their learned minds. This is but a proof of what can be done = despite the inherited underdevelopment and the longest economic and = financial blockade that any people has ever endured!

We also hurt to see the American people suffering in a =

climate of terror that disrupts its life, limits its creative capacity, = interferes with its normal life and impinges on its economy.=20

I do not wish to use this moment to make any criticism on = what could have been done, but was not, to prevent the horrendous crime = of September 11; I do not know the facts well enough.

Still, as a leader in a country that has had to defend = itself, for more than four decades, from thousands of terrorist actions = I can assure you that the constant stirring up of panic is not the right = way to proceed since it can psychologically affect the people and turn = life in that immense country into an unbearable nightmare.

The risks of grave terrorist actions have existed and still = exist in the United States as they do anywhere in the world, before or = after September 11. Alienated persons overexcited by the prevailing = climate of tension could even realize them. The leaders of nations = should no be dragged into making mistakes for fear of facing reality. At = the present time, many and very diverse realities threaten the human = society.

Of all the preventive measures that can be adopted against = terrorism, some are basic such as: educating the people by keeping them = informed of such realities and the dangers they bring; carrying to them = a message of serenity and confidence; and, providing them with the = necessary knowledge to obtain their maximum and most effective = cooperation in this struggle.

The Cubans, who are used to wage battles together as a = people, do not conceive of any victory without the people=92s = participation and support.

It is the primary duty of the overburdened leaders of our = complex world --among many other obligations and without forgetting = hunger, poverty, underdevelopment, the diseases that decimate entire = regions, the climate changes and other calamities-- to meditate and = reflect on the causes and the sources of the dangerous pandemic of = terrorism and to apply really effective methods to fight it.

Under the present difficulties and in the struggle against = the scourge of terrorism, the American people can count on this = friendly, fraternal and generous people.

Long live the political and economic system that has turned = Cuba into an example of justice, full sovereignty, true freedom, dignity = and heroism!

Long live the patriotic, united and learned people that no = power on Earth will ever break!

We shall overcome!

=20

Information Office Cuban Interests Section

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maximum and most effective cooperation in this =
struggle.<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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</SPAN>The Cubans, who are used to wage battles together as a people, do =
not=20
conceive of any victory without the people=92s participation and=20
support.<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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</span>It is the primary duty of the overburdened leaders of our complex =
world=20
--among many other obligations and without forgetting hunger, poverty,=20
underdevelopment, the diseases that decimate entire regions, the climate =
changes=20
and other calamities--<SPAN style=3D"mso-spacerun: yes">&nbsp; </SPAN>to =
meditate=20
and reflect on the causes and the sources of the dangerous pandemic of =
terrorism=20
and to apply really effective methods to fight it.<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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</SPAN>Under the present difficulties and in the struggle against the =
scourge of=20
terrorism, the American people can count on this friendly, fraternal and =
generous people.<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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justify"><SPAN=20
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justify"><SPAN=20
lang=3DEN-US=20</pre>

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</SPAN>Long live the political and economic system that has turned Cuba =
into an=20
example of justice, full sovereignty, true freedom, dignity and=20
heroism!<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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EN-US"><SPAN=20
style=3D"mso-tab-count: =
1">                     
</span>Long live the patriotic, united and learned people that no power =
on Earth=20
will ever break!<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
<P class=3DMsoNormal style=3D"MARGIN: 0in 0in 0pt; TEXT-ALIGN: =
justify"><SPAN=20
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</SPAN>We shall overcome!<o:p></o:p></SPAN></P>
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Office < BR > Cuban = 20
Interests Section<br/>
Section<br/>
FONT>
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-----=_NextPart_000_01A2_01C2095D.60215180--

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