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STATEMENT BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY ON CUBA

FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN YEARS THE CASTRO REGIME HAS RULED CUBA WITH AN IRON HAND -- AND ALL TOO FREQUENTLY THE IRON HAND HAS BEEN A CLENCHED FIST CLOSING IN ON THE CUBAN PEOPLE.

THE CUBAN PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY. THE DOOR TO POLITICAL FREEDOM IS SHUT TIGHT. THE DOOR TO INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND ACHIEVEMENT IS HEAVILY PADLOCKED. AND THE DOOR TO ECONOMIC SURVIVAL IS QUICKLY CLOSING.

THE GREAT AND IMMEDIATE TRAGEDY FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE IS THAT CASTRO'S MISPLANNED ECONOMY IS A FAILURE.

-- THE PER CAPITA INCOME AFTER A DECADE OF COMMUNIST RULE WAS \$280 -- ABOUT \$120 LESS THAN IT WAS AT THE TIME CASTRO TOOK POWER.

-- THE AVERAGE GNP GROWTH RATE PER CAPITA FOR THE 1960's, CASTRO'S DECADE OF DECLINE, WAS NEGATIVE. THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT DECLINED AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 3 PERCENT OR MORE.

-- CUBA'S EXAGGERATED AND UNREALISTIC PLANS FOR RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION HAVE BEEN LARGELY ABANDONED. SUGAR -- HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY THE RUSSIANS -- REMAINS THE STAPLE OF A ONE-CROP ECONOMY.

-- WORKERS AND FARMERS HAVE JOINED THE REFUGEE FLOW OF PROFESSIONALS AND MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES FORCED TO FLEE TO FOREIGN SAFETY FOR SURVIVAL.

CONSUMER GOODS DIMINISH AS RATION CONTROLS SQUEEZE TIGHTER AND TIGHTER.

WE MUST CALL OUT, WE MUST NOT FORGET THE PLIGHT OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE. WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR HERITAGE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF CUBA AS THEY STRUGGLE FOR SIMPLE SURVIVAL.

THE ROMANTIC APPEAL OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION HAS LONG SINCE FADED THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS. THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA KNOW PROGRESS DOES NOT FOLLOW THE CASTRO ROUTE.

THE TRADITION OF CUBAN LIBERTY IS A GREAT ONE THAT CANNOT BE WIPED AWAY BY A CALLOUS AND INCOMPETENT GOVERNMENT.

WE CANNOT HEAR THE CRIES OF DEPRESSION AND DECLINE WITHOUT SYMPATHY AND COMPASSION. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE SUFFERING OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE CROSS BORDERS AND SPAN THE SEAS.

-4-

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALLY AND TOGETHER, REMEMBER
CUBA AND THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF HER PEOPLE. THE SOUL OF
CUBA SLEEPS, BUT NOT FOREVER.

THE DOORS TO FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY WILL NEVER BE
PERMANENTLY SHUT TO THE PEOPLE OF CUBA. OF THIS THERE CAN BE
NO DOUBT. WITH COURAGE AND FORTITUDE, CUBA WILL ENDURE.

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