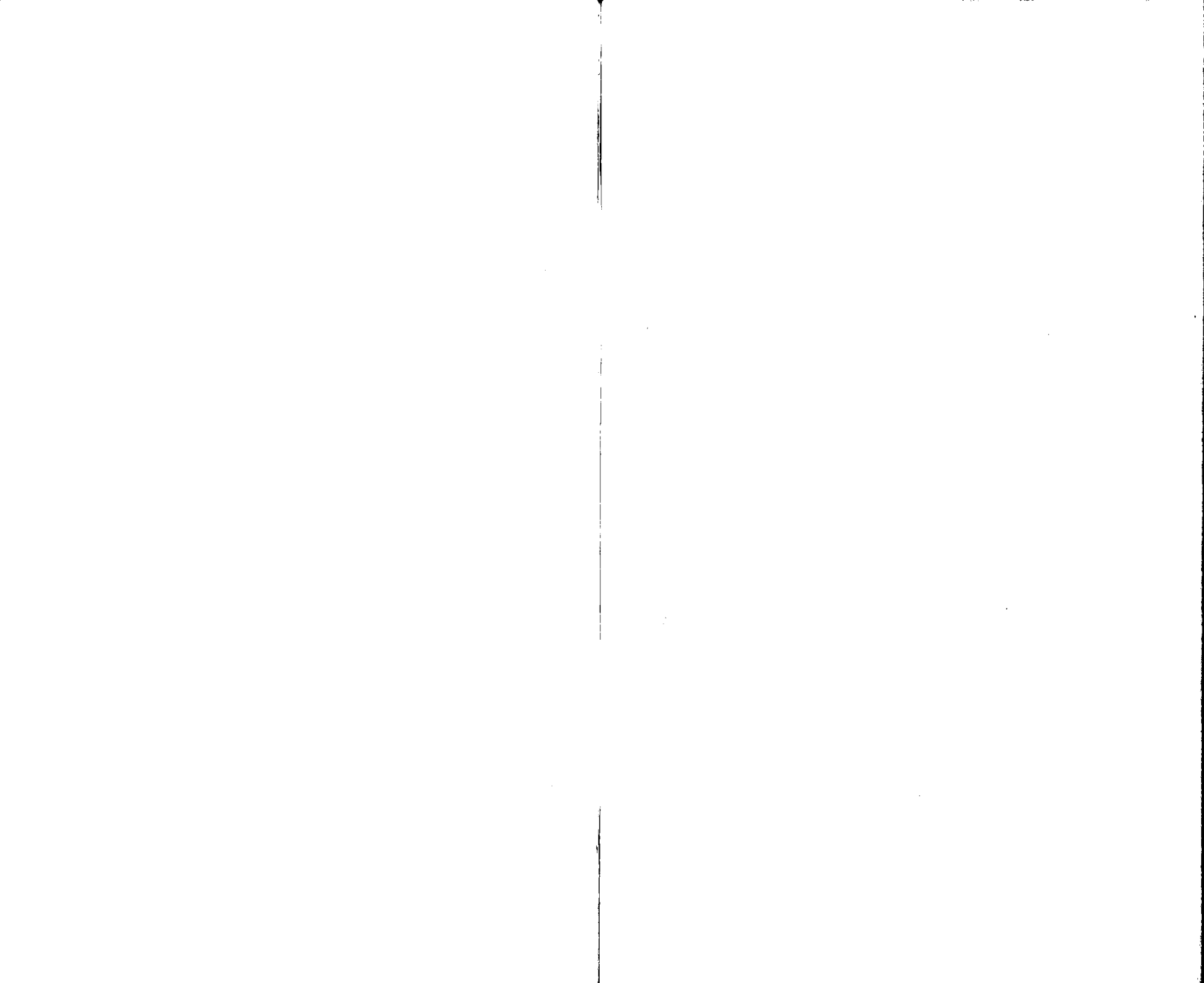


FIDEL CASTRO

Speech

**29th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ATTACK ON
THE MONCADA GARRISON**

Granma, 26th of July, 1982



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SPEECH DELIVERED BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF
FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF CUBA AND PRESIDENT OF THE COUN-
CIL OF STATE AND OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS, AT THE MAIN CEREMONY MARKING
THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON THE
MONCADA GARRISON.

CITY OF BAYAMO.
GRANMA PROVINCE.
JULY 26, 1982
YEAR 24 OF THE REVOLUTION

Distinguished Guests;

Comrades of the Party and Government;

Fellow Citizens of Granma Province and of All Cuba:

I SHOULD begin by explaining why Granma province was selected for the celebration of this anniversary. First of all, the attack on the Bayamo garrison was an integral part of the plan for the attack on the Moncada. The idea was to capture the garrison, stage an uprising in the city and set up, right here on the banks of the Cauto River, the first line of defense against the enemy's reinforcement troops. Therefore, on the date we are commemorating today Bayamo and Santiago de Cuba were inseparably linked together.

But we are also in a region full of history. How could anyone write the history of Cuba without including the history of Granma province? Our first war of independence, led by that illustrious son of this province, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, began here, at the Demajagua sugar mill; the first battles were waged here; the first machete charge launched by our mambí troops, led by Máximo Gómez, took place here. And in those days an event took place that the whole world noticed: the inhabitants of Bayamo set fire to their city rather than surrender it to the enemy. (APPLAUSE) This is why it can be said with certainty that the first cry of "Independence or death!" — which is the same as saying "Patria o muerte!" — was heard in this city of Bayamo. (APPLAUSE)

Our national anthem was written and sung here for the first time. (APPLAUSE) Very important battles were fought here, under the leadership of Antonio Maceo. (APPLAUSE) Our final, definitive struggle for independence was begun here, together with the attack on the Moncada garrison.

(APPLAUSE) The **Granma** expedition landed in this province. (APPLAUSE) And this province was the scene of our first victorious battles and of many of the decisive actions in our war of liberation.

In the initial and most difficult times of the war, these two cities, Manzanillo and Bayamo, always gave us their unwavering support, at the cost of the lives of many of their sons; and many members of the victorious columns of the Rebel Army came from this province. (APPLAUSE) And for a very important period of the war the General Command of the Rebel Army was located in this province on the border with Santiago de Cuba province. (APPLAUSE)

The lives of many of us are intimately linked to events, scenes and places in this province. Hence our satisfaction on being able to celebrate this 29th anniversary in Granma province, in the city of Bayamo, and the fact that the celebration responds not only to the province's historical significance but also to the exceptional efforts made by its people in the last year. (APPLAUSE)

IT MUST BE SAID THAT THE PROVINCE REALLY EARNED THE RIGHT TO HOST THE 26TH OF JULY CELEBRATION, ON THE BASIS OF ITS PRESENT AS WELL AS ITS PAST

It must be said that the province really earned the right to host the 26th of July celebration, on the basis of its present as well as its past. I have brought some data that explains why. I hope the people of Granma province aren't bored by listening to the long list of their accomplishments in the last year. (APPLAUSE AND SHOUTS OF "NO!")

This province covers an area of 8461 square kilometers and has a population of 744 573, with a density of 88 inhabitants per square kilometer. The distribution of the population has undergone quite a change in the last few years, becoming more concentrated in the cities.

In 1970, Bayamo — the city — had 71 484 inhabitants. By 1981 it had as many as 100 543, showing a growth of 40.6 percent, while the province-wide growth was 15.2 per-

cent for the same period. I still can't figure out how so many new residents manage to fit into this city.

The structure of production in the province shows that the industrial sector is the leader in value produced, with 50.6 percent, trailed by the agricultural sector, with 27.6 percent, and construction, with 12.6 percent. These proportions have remained more or less steady for the last five years, although industry has tended to increase, as shown by the fact that it went from 47.6 percent in 1977 to the above-mentioned 50.6 percent by the end of 1981. However, it should be pointed out that the main economic pillar of Granma province is agriculture, which is based on three main products: sugar, rice and livestock.

This province has shown a significant rate of development since the triumph of the Revolution, and this is seen in the steady yearly increase in production. This increase is due, among other things, to the investments that the Revolution has made in this province in the last few years, boosting economic and social development and living conditions in general.

The growth shown by the province's economy can be seen, for example, in the last few years, since the implementation of the new political and administrative division of the country.

Gross production, in millions of pesos: 1977, 433.3; 1978, 452.5; 1979, 442.4; 1980, 469.1; and 1981, 535.7.

Based on the results of the past six months, forecasts indicate that production will continue to increase despite the objective difficulties which we face.

IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE HAD A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN GRANMA PROVINCE

Important investments made in the last few years have had a great deal to do with the development in Granma province. These investments include the battery plant in Manzanillo; the spray irrigation systems plant; the torula yeast plant in Media Luna; the bakeries in Manzanillo and

Bayamo, both of which have improved the quantity and quality of this important product for the population; the 2nd of December bulk sugar shipping terminal in Ceiba Hueca, including the whole system of warehouses, which enables it to deliver 700 metric tons of raw sugar per hour; the El Cacao rock crusher in the municipality of Jiguaní, which can turn out 1 200 000 cubic meters of crushed rock per year; the clay pipes plant in Bayamo, with a yearly output of 500 kilometers of piping; the ice and soft drink plants in Manzanillo, which are eliminating the shortage of these two products which had existed for many years; the candy factory, with an output of 10.5 metric tons per 8-hour shift; the cheese factory in Bayamo, with a yearly output of 800 metric tons and a daily consumption of 30 000 liters of milk, and which can produce 17 different kinds of cheese; the expansion of the pastry factory in Yara and of the beef complex in Bayamo; the new sugar mill, the Grito de Yara, with a daily grinding capacity of 600 000 arrobas, in the municipality of Río Cauto. In addition to this new mill, the production facilities of other sugar mills in the province are being increased in order to achieve a potential daily grinding capacity of 2 930 000 arrobas in the next sugar harvest. Other industrial plants in the province have been repaired and modernized to improve their operations.

The broad program for developing the social sector includes the Celia Sánchez Manduley Hospital, a 600-bed hospital opened last year that has already taken care of over 700 000 patients; the Psychiatric Hospital in Manzanillo, with 110 beds, which has made for considerable improvements in the treatment of psychiatric patients. The overall number of beds in the province's hospitals is now 2511. The province has 463 doctors and 170 dentists, and the recent graduation of 47 new doctors, 260 nurses and 147 intermediate-level technicians, along with the upgrading of 198 nurse's aides to qualified nurses, will make for a marked improvement in health care beginning in September.

For the next school year it is expected that 498 students will be enrolled in the third to sixth years of medical school; 30 will be enrolled in the last course in dentistry; and 1900 will be attending technicians' training courses. This will enable the province to double the number of doctors, dentists, nurses and other technicians in the next five years.

A boost has been given to medical service in the rural areas through expansion and modernization of the 11 rural hospitals, which have been equipped with X-ray machines

and clinical laboratories. Eight medical facilities — three of them opened only recently — are in operation in the mountain areas, with dental equipment and the necessary staff.

The activities in regard to hygiene and epidemiology have continued, with the incorporation of medical and other professional and technical personnel, an improvement in transportation, and the supply of equipment to laboratories; all of which has improved the capacity to deal with problems as they arise and has made for greater control over water, food and working conditions.

A total of five educational centers was completed in 1981 alone: a senior high school in the countryside in Bayamo; an urban junior high school with room for 600 students in Bayamo; an urban junior high school with room for 1200 students in Manzanillo; the Roberto Ramírez workshop school and a semi-boarding school, also in Manzanillo.

The following works will be completed in the second half of this year: the Vado del Yeso semi-boarding school and the school for physical education teachers, both in Bayamo; and the José Luis Tasende workshop school, the La Ricardo junior high school in the countryside and a health polytechnic, all in Manzanillo.

IN THIS YEAR OF THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS ON THE MONCADA AND CARLOS MANUEL DE CÉSPEDES GARRISONS IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA AND BAYAMO, RESPECTIVELY, GRANMA PROVINCE SHOWS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION IN ITS HISTORY OF CHILDREN PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE

In this year of the 29th anniversary of the attacks on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrisons in Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo, respectively, Granma province shows the highest proportion in its history of children promoted to the next grade. (APPLAUSE)

Regarding the supply of materials to the primary schools in the mountain areas, since 1981 to date these schools

have been supplied with 11 705 pieces of furniture, 715 blackboards, 500 water tanks, 300 busts of José Martí, 415 national flags and 300 single beds, thus meeting basic needs to a great extent.

The problem of the schools isolated in the mountain areas is always a very serious one. It was brought up before the National Assembly of People's Power and the People's Power branch in the province was asked to make a special effort to solve it.

A total of 33 schools have been built and 51 others have been repaired in the area that will be occupied by the Sierra Maestra National Park.

The province also has two elementary schools of music, two plastic arts schools, an art instructors' school, a health polytechnic, a school for physical education teachers, a school for beginners in sports and two centers of the Ministry of Higher Education — the Institute of Higher Education and the Institute of Advanced Agricultural Sciences — apart from the medical schools in the hospitals, attended by medical students in their final years of training.

Five of the 13 municipalities in the province have the ten basic cultural institutions established by the Ministry of Culture and work is being done to set up all those institutions in the rest of the municipalities.

The Guacanayabo Hotel was built in Manzanillo; the Marea del Portillo Hotel was built in Pilón; and the construction of the 204-room Sierra Maestra Hotel, in Bayamo, was completed only recently.

The Bayamo and Manzanillo airports are in operation. (APPLAUSE) Both of them have modern, comfortable waiting rooms and the Manzanillo airport, with a runway 2400 to 2500 meters long, is considered to be able to handle large airliners. New roads, kilometers of paved streets, sidewalks and curbs have been built with the participation of the masses and new projects are being carried out, among them the urbanization of the recently opened Jesús Menéndez residential section.

There are also a number of new recreation centers, such as the movie house in the Jesús Menéndez neighborhood.

Other projects include the monument now under construction in Homeland Square — that is, if you all agree that it be known as Homeland Square. (APPLAUSE)

Other projects scheduled for completion this year include the brewery, with a storage capacity of 60 000 liters and now on the last stage of construction; the cement blocks plant in Bayamo; and the revamping of the electrical system in the stadium, also in Bayamo.

If we could celebrate the 26th of July here every year, the province would be incredible. (APPLAUSE)

The urbanization of the Camilo Cienfuegos neighborhood, otherwise known as La Malaria, has been a real crash project for the people of Bayamo. With no sewer system and Malaria ditch as the only source of drainage, this section has flooded every year and it has been necessary to evacuate a large number of families. La Malaria was at the core of a big problem and was the main source of contagion of many diseases. Work on the sewer and drainage system was begun with limited technical and material resources in 1981, and of the 45 kilometers of tubing the plans call for, 36.6 kilometers have been installed to date.

Outstanding among the social projects is the increase of the telephone service with the introduction of 3100 new lines in nine of the 13 municipalities. There is now direct dialing between all the municipalities and calls can be made directly from them to City of Havana, Las Tunas, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba provinces.

Television power has increased by 20 percent.

A total of 150 kilometers of railroad lines have undergone partial or complete repairs, and three railroad stations are currently being built: one in Bayamo, one in Río Cauto and another one in Guamo. (APPLAUSE)

We must draw attention to the progress made in electrification. A total of 134.6 kilometers of power lines was laid in 1981, benefiting 95 economic projects and 35 social works, plus 3776 families. As of June 30 of this year, the results of this year's plan were as follows: 85.5 kilometers of power line, the electrification of 142 economic and social works and 23 neighborhoods. In the more densely populated neighborhoods alone, 910 families now have electricity in their homes for the first time. That's this year alone. Between 1981 and the first half of this year, 37 power plants

were installed in the mountain areas, with an overall output of 1331 kilowatts, providing electricity to 1910 families. These plants also provide electricity to schools, hospitals, social clubs, stores, etc. in the mountain areas.

Roadbuilding has been given a big boost. In the historic Providencia-La Plata Highway, which is to extend for 13.2 kilometers, six kilometers were built in 1981 and 5.7 kilometers were built in the first half of this year. The 165 members of the roadbuilding brigade in charge of the project have already finished the stretch to Santo Domingo and have done the ground breaking from Santo Domingo to Alto del Naranjo.

Work on irrigation and drainage in 1981 covered 482.3 **caballerías** of ricefields and 90 **caballerías** planted to root vegetables. In the first half of this year it has added 165 **caballerías** of rice and 32 **caballerías** of root vegetables.

The overall impounding capacity of the province's reservoirs is 445.3 million cubic meters. Some 50 million pesos were invested in the construction of these reservoirs, among them the one in Guisa, which was finished only recently. Many of you remember that prior to the triumph of the Revolution the province's water impounding capacity was zero. These reservoirs contribute mainly to the growing of rice, root vegetables, sugarcane, and grass for cattle feeding.

The Paso Malo Reservoir is being expanded to increase its impounding capacity to 100 million cubic meters. Vicana Reservoir, in Media Luna, is now under construction and will impound 41.6 million cubic meters. The water from this reservoir will be used for irrigation of canefields. Work is also being done on Corajo Reservoir, with a planned impounding capacity of 96 million cubic meters. Its water will be used for irrigation of ricefields, root vegetable farms and pastures. All these waterworks are of vast importance considering the growth of the agricultural area, with its vast canefields, rice paddies and root and garden vegetable fields. We must carry out these waterworks projects or else we may have difficulties in irrigation in the future, especially in years similar to this one and last year, too, both of which were years of drought.

Apart from the projects for social and economic development that have been carried out in Granma province in the last few months and those that were completed at an accelerated rate in honor of the 26th of July, the workers of

this province have also made tremendous efforts in the area of production, among which the following should be given special attention: in 1981 the province exceeded its plan for the production of consumer goods by 3 percent, showing a growth of 14 percent as compared to the same period the year before, and in the first half of this year the plan was surpassed by 7.5 percent — showing a growth of 10.2 as compared to the same period in 1981. This growth rate is mainly the result of higher work productivity and not of an increase in the number of workers. Production costs dropped throughout the province as a result of more efficient work.

THE RECENT SUGAR HARVEST IN GRANMA PROVINCE WAS THE LARGEST IN ALL ITS HISTORY

The recent sugar harvest in Granma province was the largest in all its history; (APPLAUSE) it achieved 95 percent of its rated potential. You will all remember that the highest percentage ever reached by the capitalists here was 85 percent, and Granma province ground cane this year at 95 percent of its rated potential. (APPLAUSE)

The province's production this year of 472 000 metric tons of sugar exceeded that of 1981 by 47 000 tons, and surpassed the capitalists' largest harvest here by much more than 100 000 tons. No oil was consumed to produce raw sugar during the entire harvest. (APPLAUSE) By July 20, cane-weeding operations had satisfactorily cleared the land of all significant growth of grass; it was the first time that this achievement had been reached by that date in recent years. (APPLAUSE)

Significant results were also obtained in cattle breeding. The total number of head of cattle in the province came to 440 093, representing an increase of 2.8 percent or 12 187 cattle for the first half of the year. There are 37 600 milking cows, representing 16 percent more than planned, a growth of 17 percent in comparison with 1981. One feat accomplished by the cattlemen in the province was the production of 314 000 liters of milk in one day during the peak production season.

The production of 44 000 metric tons of silage represents an increase of 34 percent in comparison to the same period

last year. In rice, positive results were also obtained. Yields of 1405 **quintales** per **caballería** were obtained in the prior winter harvest, surpassing the planned yield of 1200.

A total of 67 000 **quintales** of rice greater than the yield of both crops in 1980 were produced, in spite of the fact that 623 **caballerías** were not planted due to lack of water in the dams. This brought the average annual yield obtained to 1042 **quintales** per **caballería**.

Faced with the critical situation stemming from the shortage of water we have resorted to a new irrigation method which is far better and uses less water than the previous method: the method of minifield irrigation.

The situation of the harvest this year as of July 10 was as follows: we produced 679 576 **quintales** and the planned production was 578 380 **quintales**. And where 1299 **quintales** per **caballería** were planned for a planted area of 422.8 **caballerías** we achieved 1607 — 1607 **quintales**! As can be seen, we had harvested 101 196 **quintales** more than planned by that date, given that the yields are 308 **quintales** per **caballería** greater than our planned goals. The reason for this is the availability of new sugarcane varieties and the more efficient techniques being applied progressively.

I recall that in the first years of the Revolution, around 400 **quintales** per **caballería** were being produced. Now, already by July 10, the winter crops have reached a yield four times greater than what we obtained in the first years of the Revolution. (APPLAUSE)

Our plans to increase coffee production are being successfully carried out. Our planned goals for planting cacao during the five-year period are being met this year; we will have 110 **caballerías** of state land planted to cacao.

Presently our biggest effort in forestry is the reforestation taking place in the Sierra Maestra. This year's plan calls for a total of 4.7 million seedlings, and we have already produced seven million, enabling the province to surpass the year's plan.

Of a total area of 20 400 **caballerías** in the mountains, it will be necessary to reforest around 10 500. This calls for the annual planting of around 15 million seedlings starting next year, which means that our planned reforestation goals will be met by the end of this century. To accomplish this we're counting on the support of the Young Communist

League (UJC). At present, there are 200 young men and women working on this project and this figure will gradually increase.

There are 1689 Party nuclei in the province with 22 723 members in all, of which 20 700 are regular Party members and 2023 are candidates. There is a total of 49 Party committees located in work places forming 321 nuclei with 4946 members. The province has 18 500 workers going through the process of Party membership, and, of these, 59.8 percent are directly engaged in production.

Right after we suggested that the province was a likely contender to host the main celebrations for the 26th of July, a strong emulation movement emerged which had as its goals the 26 basic tasks of all grass-roots organizations, the Young Communist League and the state agencies. (APPLAUSE) As a result of their successes, all the mass organizations and the UJC of the province received recognition for the year of 1981. (APPLAUSE)

Furthermore, the struggle to win the honor of hosting the 26th of July ceremonies has resulted in strengthening the People's Power organs, the work done by the Party, the mass organizations, the UJC and the state agencies in the province.

We think that all the above serves to explain why the people of Granma were awarded this honor. (APPLAUSE) We ought to ask them to go on making the same efforts that they made this year. Clearly everyone cooperates and makes a big effort around the 26th of July; but it sometimes happens that after the big effort comes a drop in activity. I am not going to mention here other provinces where this has happened, but we hope that you will commit yourselves to not letting that happen in Granma province. (APPLAUSE)

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFORTS MADE IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1982 WERE ALSO POSITIVE

The economic and social efforts made in the rest of the country for the first half of 1982 were also positive. The consumer goods production goal was exceeded by 1.2 percent.

representing an increase of 5.5 percent as compared to the same period last year. Over 70 percent of the increased consumer goods production was due to increased work productivity. Growth in the period was reflected mainly in industry, but agriculture, transportation, communications, construction and trade also grew.

The sugar harvest that just ended was one of the largest in our history, (APPLAUSE) with 8 207 178 metric tons of sugar, base 96, being produced. (APPLAUSE) We had some doubts whether we should mention the figure. At times we've been discreet about how much sugar we produce. In their efforts to slander the Revolution, the Yankees say that we produced five million or six million. They change the figure, which can affect prices somewhat, but any way prices can't be lower than what they already are now.

At any rate, we will export to the so-called world market only the quantities stipulated in the agreements. Apart from domestic consumption, the rest will go to socialist countries. (APPLAUSE) And besides, these figures are always reported to the international agencies at the end of the year. If within three months we must report to the international agencies how much sugar we've produced, why not report it to the people here on the 26th of July. (APPLAUSE) With the bulk of our sugar exports absorbing the market of the socialist countries and with that market's growth prospects, year by year, our increased harvests should not affect world market prices and we will confine ourselves to meeting our assigned quotas in that market.

These achievements in larger production volumes are accompanied and supported by significant advances in overall efficiency, which has also been progressively increasing. A comparison made of the results of the recent harvest with the preceding harvest affirms this: 10.6 percent more cane was ground and 11.5 percent more sugar was produced. A contributing element here was the cane polarization which exceeded that of the previous year by 0.22 percent and made possible a 0.10 percent greater industrial yield. Oil consumption dropped from 0.70 gallon per ton of cane in 1981 to 0.26 in 1982, an important accomplishment which compares favorably with any previous year. The total quantity of oil saved in this harvest exceeded 100 000 tons. The provinces of Granma, Guantánamo and Cienfuegos won the honorable distinction of not consuming any oil during the entire harvest. (APPLAUSE)

ON THE AVERAGE, THIS YEAR'S SUGAR HARVEST ONLY REQUIRED 110 000 CANECUTTERS AND 3000 HARVESTERS COMPARED TO THE 350 000 CANECUTTERS NEEDED IN 1970

On the average, this year's sugar harvest only required 110 000 canecutters and 3000 harvesters compared to the 350 000 canecutters needed in 1970, which means that this harvest was nearly as big as that of 1970 with less than one-third of the canecutters. (APPLAUSE) The canecutters' productivity increased from 252 arrobas per day in 1981 to 257 arrobas per day in 1982. Again, the Army of Working Youth was the force with the greatest productivity with a yield of 326 arrobas per canecutter. (APPLAUSE)

The early date in which the first eight million tons of sugar were produced — May 7 as compared with June 12 in the 1970 harvest — was another outstanding achievement.

Finishing the harvest on schedule has enabled us to tackle the task of manual weeding which is traditionally done by our workers with a larger participation of sugar industry and agricultural workers. They have carried out a sustained effort in weeding the fields and compensated for the shortage of herbicides we've had this year with revolutionary zeal. We've also made advances in the application of deep planting methods to keep up the gradually increasing agricultural yields throughout the next harvest.

The attention given to the sugar workers during the harvest was positive and the results were better than in the previous harvest. Generally, incentives were increased and more facilities were offered.

In the course of the next few months a sustained effort will be needed. Particularly important will be good, prompt repairs in the sugar mills; the battle against weeds must be continued; and steps must be taken to correctly select and train the manpower needed for manual and mechanized cane cutting. All of these factors are critical to guaranteeing a high and stable production right from the start of the next harvest. We mustn't ever forget that regardless of how low prices can be in the world market, sugar continues to be our main source of obtaining foreign currency, apart from the decisive fact of the well-known fair prices we receive from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. (APPLAUSE)

The Ministry of the Food Industry met its planned goals by 99.5 percent and production here rose by 11 percent as compared with the first half of 1981. Some outstanding production increases were made in soft drinks (24.2 percent), canned meat (11.8 percent), beer (9.5 percent), ice cream (8.2 percent) and cigars (48.5 percent). The substantial increase in cigar production was partly due to the fact that it came the year after we defeated the blue mold blight that hit our tobacco fields, which would account for such a high growth in just one year.

The Ministry of Basic Industry surpassed its goal by 1.4 percent. An increase of 5.5 percent was registered in the production of bottled gas; 14 percent in lubricants; 14.3 percent in salt; and 59.3 percent in different types of cardboard. Electric power was increased by 7.5 percent, a figure which is not totally desirable. Although a part of the increase represents new services needed by the population and production, some of it reflects the fact that we haven't yet taken all the steps that are required to make further advances in the conservation of our energy sources.

Paint production has dropped to minimum levels because of its dependence on raw materials that we can only get in capitalist markets. Tire and paper production also dropped.

Geological and geophysical exploratory work related to oil and gas is continuing, and this year we have had modest increases in oil extraction.

The Ministry of the Iron and Steel and Machine Industry grew by 2.6 percent as compared with last year, especially in the production of equipment for the sugar industry. It should be pointed out here that a significant 27.9-percent increase was made in the extremely important field of domestically manufactured spare parts. This was brought about by the Ministry itself, which handles most of this production, in conjunction with 10 other agencies and eight provincial People's Power organs. This result should serve as an encouragement for even greater production of spare parts, the lack of which has adversely affected agriculture, transportation, construction and other areas.

The Ministry of Light Industry met 98.4 percent of its goals, representing no increases as compared to the past year. This Ministry's production output was the subject of an in-depth analysis made during the last session of the National Assembly of People's Power, which was given broad

coverage in the local press. While the industry's limited resources of convertible currency are well known, its textile production is also affected by a shortage of permanent manpower and other organizational problems which we must resolve.

The fishing industry had an increase of 7.6 percent. Adverse weather conditions prevailed in the Pacific where our high-seas fleet does its fishing. Substantial increases in inland fishing were recorded, accounting for the large food reserve for the country.

The Ministry of Construction exceeded its planned goals by 11.8 percent, but the completion of some works, including homes, was negatively affected by a shortage of finishing materials. Construction projects abroad have continued to increase. Under several types of cooperation agreements, at the moment over 8000 construction workers are rendering their services in various countries, which already accounts for a substantial source of foreign currency income.

We must emphasize the increases in the construction of homes, reconstruction and enlargement carried out by the population on its own, thanks to the increased supplies of materials sold to the public. In construction maintenance, although the plan was not met, a growth of 17.4 percent was recorded.

The country's program of industrial investments in power plants, oil, nickel, sugar, citrus fruit, textile and machinery, among other things, is being implemented essentially with the cooperation of the USSR and other socialist countries. It has, nevertheless, experienced some setbacks due to the limited availability of some complementary resources coming from capitalist countries.

Not just in the sugar harvest but in all of the sectors as a whole, less fuel was consumed than in 1981, which attests to the practical application of a policy of conservation.

**WE HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING TO INCREASE
OUR ECONOMY'S EFFICIENCY EVEN MORE;
SIMPLY STATED, WE HAVE TO DO MORE WITH LESS**

We have to continue working to increase our economy's efficiency even more; simply stated, we have to do more

with less. The conservation of all our resources must be closely supervised by the Party, the trade unions and all the organizations.

Agriculture has increased by 3 percent, mainly due to the 6.8-percent increase in sugarcane production and an 11.7-percent increase in production other than sugarcane.

Livestock production decreased by 3.6 percent, although it surpassed the goal, which was set low because of limited supplies from the capitalist countries.

The overall increase in this sector was achieved due to increased productivity, despite the fact that cultivation of vegetables, root vegetables and livestock pastureland was adversely affected by high temperatures and drought.

Milk production reached 401.5 million liters, exceeding the goal by 4.1 percent, and representing 10.5 million liters more than the same period last year. The number of liters produced per cow and the number of milking cows increased. The goals set for the slaughter of cattle were met, slightly decreasing calf mortality.

Pork production increased by 11.3 percent, reflecting a decrease in mortality. The production of liquid feed was improved.

Egg sales made to the state by state enterprises reached the figure of 1037 million, surpassing the goal by 0.8 percent.

Poultry production exceeded the plan by 7.5 percent, but it should be taken into account that this represents a decrease in comparison to 1981, due to a limited access to feed.

In transportation, plans were surpassed by 5.7 percent, representing a 12-percent increase in comparison to the same period last year, although there were decreases in truck transport and bus services, mainly due to shortages of spare parts and tires. Buses in Havana were damaged by the rains; many have been repaired and others were replaced by new buses, increasing the average number of trips to 26 300 in recent days, but the people's needs are still not being met.

IN COMPARISON WITH 1981, THE PLAN FOR EXPORT VALUES IS 11 PERCENT LOWER IN 1982, DUE NOT TO A DECREASE IN VOLUME BUT MAINLY TO THE LOWER SUGAR PRICES ON THE WORLD MARKET

In comparison with 1981, the plan for export values is 11 percent lower in 1982, due not to a decrease in volume but mainly to the lower sugar prices on the world market. Although exports to the socialist community have increased, they do not totally compensate for the decreased value of exports to the capitalist countries. The negative effect of inflation in the industrialized capitalist countries, which is passed on to us through imports, must also be taken into account. The impact is such that, in the case of sugar, the price of 7.41 cents per pound (the closing price on July 23) is actually equal to 2.82 cents in terms of the exchange relations in 1970. This means that, under present world market conditions, our country must deliver two and a half times the amount of sugar it delivered in 1970 in order to acquire the same amount of products.

In order to lessen the effects caused by the decreased value of exports, steps have been taken to guarantee the fulfillment of planned volumes, particularly increases in quantities of an important group of products.

In the concrete case of the sugar industry, during the first half of the year the following quantities were exported, in excess of those for the same period in 1981: 996 000 more tons of crude sugar; 112 000 more tons of refined sugar; 79 000 more tons of processed molasses; and 120 000 more tons of natural alcohol. All of these figures reflect additions to the figures for the same period last year.

We might add that, of course, our sugar harvest for 1982 is sold already.

There are other significant increases in excess of the figures for the same period last year including: 6000 tons of leaf-tobacco; 4 million cigars; 13 million pesos' worth of fish products; 3.8 million liters of alcoholic beverages; 3000 tons of fruit juices and nectars; 961 tons of bee honey; 630 tons of candy; 60 000 tons of citrus fruits; 69 000 tons of industrial naphtha; 67 000 tons of steel bars, billets and wiring; 8000 tons of scrap iron; 3000 cubic meters of ar-

tificial wood paneling; and 4000 tons of paper and cardboard by-products. All of these, I repeat, represent figures in excess of those for the same period last year.

We continue to face serious difficulties in the marketing of nickel, one of our main sources of exports, directly resulting from the methodical pressure exerted by the U.S. government over countries that have been traditional customers of our product.

In spite of these undoubtedly positive figures resulting from our efforts, we must make an even greater effort in the second half of the year in order to reach the objective for the end of 1982 — the total fulfillment of the plan — because some difficulties in production, marketing and shipping still persist and demand tight coordination of all the elements involved.

International tourism continues to stand out as another important source of foreign currency, despite Mr. Reagan's aggressive policy in this area, prohibiting U.S. citizens from traveling to Cuba. And now, in complete contempt of the Puerto Rican people, after denying them the right to host the upcoming Central American Games, they have just taken the outrageous measure of prohibiting a group of Puerto Rican tourists from coming to Cuba to support their athletes in that sports event.

Workers' incomes have continued to increase: the average monthly salary is now 179 pesos, which represents a 6.4-percent increase over the first half of 1981. Taking into account the growth of the labor force, the total of earned income increased 9.4 percent.

At the close of June 30, the increase in goods and services offered, together with the retail price reforms and a notable and very encouraging increase in savings on the part of the population, brought about a situation where there was more income than expenditures, a difference of 37.6 million pesos, something which has not occurred in the first half of any year since 1974.

The country's efforts in the field of education continue achieving impressive successes. Graduates of the recently concluded semester, excluding those who have passed special examinations, are represented by the following preliminary figures: 202 874 sixth-grade graduates; 178 447

junior high school graduates; 39 200 senior high school graduates; 58 440 intermediate-level technicians and trained workers; 20 981 intermediate education teachers; 21 192 adults graduating from the sixth grade; 43 278 adults graduating from junior high school; 9096 adults graduating from senior high school; and 21 009 university graduates.

Presently, 4265 education professionals are working abroad.

We must also mention the organizational and developmental advances made in the field of science in the nation, whose achievements will be evident in the near future.

In the cultural arena, there are more libraries, museums, galleries, houses of culture, bookstores and other basic facilities.

In the field of sports and physical culture, in the coming days we will be welcoming our region's athletes at the opening of the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games. (APPLAUSE) All those who have worked under difficult time limitations to organize and complete the preparations — the construction workers, instructors, athletes, technicians, administrative workers — deserve our recognition for their efforts. (APPLAUSE)

As I took the opportunity to explain on July 18, enthusiasm for camping is growing and necessary resources have been devoted to it, constituting a tremendous response, certainly massive and economical, to the people's need for recreation in their free time. This is one example among many of what we can do despite material limitations.

**ON JULY 26 LAST YEAR, IN LAS TUNAS,
WE DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULT SITUATION
THAT HAD BEEN CREATED IN OUR COUNTRY
AS A RESULT OF THE DENGUE EPIDEMIC,
CLEARLY INTRODUCED BY CRIMINALS AT THE
SERVICE OF IMPERIALISM**

On July 26 last year, in Las Tunas, we described the difficult situation that had been created in our country as

a result of the dengue epidemic, clearly introduced by criminals at the service of imperialism. We made up our minds to win the battle against the epidemic and the results were soon seen, although we still haven't been able to completely eradicate the mosquito that causes it.

A program for the elimination of the dengue epidemic and the eradication of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito was put into effect on June 9, 1981. By July 26, 1981, there were 279 628 cases of dengue reported, with July 6 as the record for a single day with 11 721 cases reported. Less than three months later, on October 10, 1981, the last confirmed case of dengue was reported in Contramaestre, Santiago de Cuba province, and not one case has been reported since. The epidemic left a toll of 344 203 cases and the deplorable loss of 158 lives.

Having achieved the first purpose, work is being continued to eradicate the mosquito which acts as the vector for this disease. Already every home and building in the country has gone through five phases of treatment, verification and destruction of *Aedes aegypti* breeding grounds. In the fifth phase, which is now being put into effect, a total of 301 breeding grounds have been detected, which amounts to a nationwide infection rate of 0.02. The Isle of Youth is free of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. The existing low infection rate ensures the nonproliferation of diseases transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* in the form of an epidemic.

Serotypes 1 and 4 of the dengue virus are currently circulating in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to wage an effective struggle against vectors, we have a force of 9285 skilled workers, of which 6450 are especially assigned to the program for the eradication of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. A veritable health army has been organized, trained and assigned to this program, in which women are playing a major role. (APPLAUSE)

In less than a year's time, the great majority of the municipalities in our country have set up vector control centers and have been supplied with pesticides, portable fumigation equipment and means of transportation.

An intensive campaign against rats was put into effect in the last quarter of 1981. At the beginning of the cam-

paign the infection rate was 77 percent. At the end it had been cut down to 13 percent. An estimated 60 million rats were eliminated.

The sustained observance of hygiene and health measures, along with the aforementioned control measures, will reduce the rodent population to a number that will not constitute a danger to our people's health and to our country's economy.

In May and June of this year, a nationwide health and hygiene campaign was put into effect, with the participation of People's Power, the state agencies, the mass organizations and the people in general. This campaign contributed greatly to the struggle against vectors and for general hygiene. Such a campaign should be put into effect at regular intervals every year and supported with transportation when the end of the sugar harvest and other agricultural activities make additional means of transportation available.

The Ministry of Public Health and the public health divisions of People's Power must demand greater efficiency from the state agencies and the people in general, in order to eliminate anything that may favor the procreation^o of vectors and the propagation of diseases. The state agencies must closely comply with the health measures and all mass organizations must contribute to the achievement of these goals, which will lead to the general improvement of the people's health.

INFANT MORTALITY DROPPED FROM 19.6 PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS IN 1980 TO 18.5 IN 1981, AND LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH REACHED 73 YEARS

In spite of the dengue epidemic which cost so many lives, and on which we've had to expend huge economic reserves and manpower, our public health statistics improved in comparison to previous years. Infant mortality dropped from 19.6 per 1000 live births in 1980 to 18.5 in 1981, and life expectancy at birth reached 73 years.

Since July of last year, construction has begun on 31 pediatric intensive care units, with a total capacity of 230 beds. Already 21 of these units have been finished, five are under construction and five are in the planning stages. The cost of equipping these intensive care units has been 7.8 million dollars, of which 4 million has been spent on medical equipment, spare parts and expendable supplies, and 3.8 million on power plants, air conditioning and other special supplies.

Together with the development of intensive care units is the program for improvement and enlargement of the country's 26 pediatric hospitals and the pediatric services in seven general hospitals. The program means that 13 polyclinics specializing in pediatrics will be built in various provinces, in addition to the remodeling and enlargement of outpatient clinics, emergency services, inpatient facilities, operating rooms, kitchens, dining rooms and other hospital services.

These projects will increase the present number of hospital beds by 700, in addition to the 230 beds which will be available in intensive care, thus improving the overall care of our children.

Plans have also been drawn up for four pediatric hospitals: in Marianao, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Bayamo, the first of which will be begun in the third quarter of this year and the rest in 1983. (APPLAUSE)

Eight nephrology departments are being established which will be equipped with hemodialysis equipment — artificial kidneys — in pediatric hospitals in Havana, Villa Clara, Camagüey, Santiago de Cuba and Manzanillo. Most of the equipment is already in the country and doctors, technicians and nurses who have been selected for the specialization are being trained. The first of these training courses is already completed.

Work will begin this year on the Institute of Nephrology, to be annexed to the Joaquín Albarrán Hospital. This will allow greater progress in the field and increase the attention available to adult patients with chronic kidney conditions in some provinces.

At present, ultrasound diagnosis is available in only nine hospitals in the country, six of which are in the City of Havana province. This year the service will be extended to 60 hospitals, of which 23 are surgical hospitals, 17 are

gynecological-obstetric hospitals, 15 are general municipal hospitals, 12 are institutes and three are pediatric hospitals. The total cost of equipment, spare parts and expendable supplies is 1.8 million dollars and some of these goods have already arrived in the country.

Recently a group selected from all over the country finished the first six-month course in radiology, and these people will be responsible for starting off the program.

In the 12 months which have passed since July 26, 1981, a total of 261 health facilities have been completed, out of which 135 were new. In addition to the pediatric intensive care units and extensions made to children's hospitals, the following have also been built: two hospitals, in San Cristóbal and Puerto Padre; 13 polyclinics, eight dental clinics, seven homes for the aged, four homes for disabled people, three health polytechnics, a blood bank, two intermediate care wards, 69 vector control centers, 12 oncology units, 12 nursing schools and two pharmacies. There were also 126 other health facilities expanded or remodeled.

Apart from funds allotted by the nation's budget to public health programs, priority was also given this year to a number of projects necessary for raising the standard of medical training and health care. For this purpose an additional amount of 19 584 000 pesos of state money was used to build medical school facilities, classrooms, hospitals, polyclinics and research institutes.

A total of 3807 senior high school students with grade averages over 90 percent, together with 173 workers from the Ministry of Public Health of the same quality and 200 young men who recently finished training in the Revolutionary Armed Forces are presently studying at the Republic of Panama School. They will make up the first contingent of the Carlos J. Finlay Medical Sciences Detachment, which will have more than 4000 students beginning studies in medicine next September. (APPLAUSE) These students have gone through a rigorous selection process which has appraised their educational level and political consciousness as well as their vocation for a career as a doctor or dentist.

Special attention is now being paid to one of the first great achievements of the Revolution in public health: rural medicine. Health is one of the most important social needs in rural areas, and this year the 117 hospitals in rural areas

and towns which provide care for over two million rural inhabitants are being remodeled. These hospitals have a total of 3382 beds for the care of patients and will also become teaching hospitals, so that scientific levels and the quality of care will be vastly improved, as well as improving facilities which will be equipped with X-ray machines, laboratories, transportation, power plants and other resources necessary to raise services to the highest possible level. Thirty-five municipal and regional hospitals will also become teaching hospitals, improving their scientific levels and the quality of care. A group of doctors will be going to these hospitals in September for this purpose and 262 interns will be sent to rural hospitals while 342 will go to municipal hospitals. These students in their final year will finish their training at these locations, and will remain there for three years as qualified doctors.

In recent months, optometry services have been hampered by a number of problems. After a detailed analysis carried out in these units, it appeared that the main difficulty was the shortage of lenses and frames, caused by production problems which affected their quality; antiquated equipment or lack of equipment in the opticians' offices and workshops; low capacity for production of finished lenses and no production of optical glass in the country. These and other factors have caused a backlog in delivery which is annoying and irritating to many people and hampers the progress of work and study.

As a decisive solution to the problem, 6.5 million dollars have been set aside for the purchase of lenses and frames; the modernization of opticians' offices and workshops; the purchase of materials, hardware and raw materials for the production of frames; and other steps such as making feasibility studies on the production of optical glass in the country. Within a few months, these goods will be arriving and the situation will begin to improve.

At the present time there are 2551 health workers, of which 1319 are doctors, working in 26 different countries.

A few days ago, 52 doctors graduated in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. They are the first to be fully trained in their own school of medicine, which presently has 500 more students. In the last seven years, 101 Cuban doctors have taught at the Yemeni medical school, 22 of which are still there. This collaboration has made medical training in

Yemen a success. Suffice it to say that at the time of the triumph of the Revolution there were only eight Yemeni doctors, an inheritance from British colonialism.

This enormous effort in the health sector that we have been talking about has demonstrated how our people and our health workers have kept their promise of making the dengue epidemic into a victory of the Revolution. (APPLAUSE)

AS YOU ALL KNOW, LATELY OUR COUNTRY HAS HAD TO MAKE AN EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE

But not only have we worked hard in the economic field, services and social development. As you all know, lately our country has had to make an extraordinary effort in the field of defense. Over the past 18 months, more than half a million citizens — men and women — have joined the Territorial Troop Militia and were trained and armed. (APPLAUSE)

It was necessary to build countless facilities of every sort for training, storing the weapons and generally carrying out this activity — an effort to which People's Power contributed significantly. In a matter of months it built dozens and dozens of such facilities.

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces made an extraordinary effort to train the militia and prepare at the same time tens of thousands of cadres to lead these troops. A similarly massive effort was made within the ranks of our regular troops to familiarize them with new combat techniques. Not only that, but we have had to invest efforts and resources into fortifying and protecting the equipment and the troops. Recently, tens of thousands of men and thousands of pieces of equipment were involved in this task, in this sacred duty of doing everything necessary to strengthen the country's defense at a time when the imperialists are becoming more arrogant and aggressive.

I think that this information — perhaps somewhat lengthy, perhaps a little tiring but, in my opinion, encouraging and

interesting because it reflects the work done by our people over the past year and in the past few months — shows how much attention, how much effort has gone into solving our basic problems, and even how much we have progressed.

But we should never deceive ourselves — we do have difficulties, and we're going to have difficulties in the coming years, and they may still be even greater in the future. We must be aware and on a day like today it pays to be fully aware of the problems facing the world today, including our country.

The capitalist world is going through a deep economic crisis, perhaps one of the biggest in its history. This crisis particularly affects the underdeveloped world, but it also influences the socialist countries.

The capitalist sugar market, for example — and this affects us a great deal — is now going through one of the worst crises in its history. That crisis, to a large extent, is part of the broader crisis now afflicting all basic products exported by the underdeveloped non-oil-producing countries: foodstuffs, agricultural raw materials and mineral ores, and is considered the worst crisis since the end of World War II. The crisis affects practically all basic products exported by the underdeveloped non-oil-producing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

We can even add that the oil-exporting countries, which in recent years experienced an income boost unparalleled in history, are now facing difficulties due to the contraction of the market caused by the crisis.

Tropical foods and drinks like coffee represent about 54 percent of the total value of the basic products exported by the underdeveloped countries. The two most important commodities in this group are sugar and coffee. Coffee is the most important basic product exported by Brazil, amounting to 22 percent of its total exports; Colombia, 62 percent; El Salvador, 63 percent; Guatemala, 44 percent; Uganda, 93 percent; Ethiopia, 75 percent; Tanzania, 41 percent; Madagascar, 48 percent; Burundi, 98 percent; Rwanda, 72 percent, and so forth.

Coffee rose sharply starting in 1975; it was quoted on the average in 1977 at 2.56 dollars a pound, as the combined

price of various varieties, and then it began to drop. The average price during the first four months of this year: 1.28.

Sugar is Cuba's most important export commodity, but it is also vital for Brazil, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, India and other countries. The behavior of sugar prices on the so-called world market has been one of the worst among all basic products. Over the past 22 years, sugar has maintained an annual average price of between 25 and 30 cents a pound during only two years, 1974 and 1980; between 20 and 25 cents only one year, 1975; between 15 and 20 cents only one year, 1981; and between ten and 15 cents only one year, 1976. On the other hand, the price of sugar has fluctuated for seven years between five and ten cents, and for ten years between one and five cents. But we must remember that seven cents 20 years ago is not the same as seven cents nowadays. We can say that the current sugar price, if we compare it with the year 1959, bearing in mind the current price of the products now imported by the country, should equal about one or one and a half cents.

The highest monthly average price for sugar was reached in October 1980: 40 cents a pound. It then dropped, just as the other basic products did except that it did so more quickly than any other. It reached less than 12 cents a pound on the average in January to April this year, and recently it sometimes went below less than eight cents.

Agricultural raw materials, including cotton, rubber, timber and cacao, account for about 18 percent of the total value of the underdeveloped countries' exports and are similarly affected by the crisis. Cotton, for example — important to Sudan and Egypt but also to Nicaragua (25 percent of its exports) and to some of the poorest countries in Africa like Chad (83 percent of its exports), Mali (46 percent) and Upper Volta — reached its highest price in September 1980, when the most common variety was quoted at 1.06 dollars a pound. Then, as in the other cases, it took a nosedive: during the opening months of 1982 it brought only 72 cents. Rubber, timber and cacao — the latter vitally important to several African countries and significant for some in Latin America, have also experienced substantial price drops.

Mineral ores and metals account for roughly 20 percent of the underdeveloped world's exported basic products. Prominent among these are copper, which shapes the econ-

omy of several countries; iron, on which for example Liberia and Mauritania depend; aluminum, tin, and others. All these products have dropped in price.

Still other commodities of relatively lesser importance in world trade and in the overall exports made by the underdeveloped countries — but nonetheless important to some of them, as in the case of vegetable oils and oleaginous seeds — are also afflicted by this crisis.

Meanwhile, these price drops in basic commodities, even regarded purely in nominal terms, cost the underdeveloped countries in 1981, according to specialists, an estimated eight to ten thousand million dollars in export income. Furthermore, even export volumes have been shrinking.

THUS THE DROP IN PRICES ACCOMPANIED BY A REDUCTION IN IMPORTS HAS BECOME A DETERMINING FACTOR IN DEEPENING ONE OF THE WORST, IF NOT THE WORST, CRISES EVER EXPERIENCED BY THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Thus the drop in prices accompanied by a reduction in imports has become a determining factor in deepening one of the worst, if not the worst, crises ever experienced by the underdeveloped countries. And there are other aggravating factors.

As is well known, those countries are faced by a sustained rise in the price they pay for imports from the developed capitalist countries, a constant increase in foreign debt servicing and an increase in the drainage represented by the export of capital and other profits, going to private foreign investment. At the same time, paradoxically, at the time when they most need it, commercial loans to these countries are being curtailed and, in certain cases, the loans from the International Monetary Fund are completely cut off, while the so-called official development aid is being curtailed and often suspended.

To make things even worse, the interest rates, pressured by those set by the United States, are being kept at the

highest level. Such a situation not only obstructs the economic recovery of the developed capitalist countries but also makes the servicing of the foreign debt by the underdeveloped countries even more unbearable.

These are the reasons why international authorities view the economic and financial situation of the underdeveloped countries as desperate. In those countries the crisis in basic products, aggravated by the aforementioned factor, has led to a sustained drop of the growth rate, in some cases reaching levels of negative growth; a contraction in investments and consumption; a rise in inflation; an upswing of the traditionally high rate of unemployment; and a dramatic deterioration of living conditions.

Moreover, the outlook couldn't be more dismal. The capitalist crisis shows no signs of lessening. Here's some data: the growth rate of the OECD industrialized countries is not expected to go over 0.5 percent in 1982. Here's another piece of information: according to forecasts, the inflation rate will remain between eight and ten percent. Still more data: the unemployment rates are predicted to go as high as eight and a half percent of the world labor force — that is, some 30 million unemployed — by 1983.

Furthermore, most of the governments of the developed capitalist countries seem to be more inclined to cope with the crisis with the idea of protecting the profits of the monopolies, while encouraging monetary-fiscal policies and applying measures that put the full weight of the crisis on the shoulders of the workers in the form of unemployment and wage cuts, and on the underdeveloped countries in the form of protectionism through subsidies, import quotas, tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers.

Lately, some of these developed capitalist countries, with the United States in the lead, have been putting up even stiffer resistance to the just demands of the underdeveloped countries, particularly in regard to basic products and financial aid for development. It is clear that such a policy can serve only to worsen the crisis and with it the world economy as a whole. These are facts that our people must understand and think about.

Nevertheless, we must not blame sugar for our troubles, because sugar constitutes the main item in our trade with the socialist countries, at good prices, and moreover a number of clauses in our agreements with them protect us against any price rise in the imports we receive from those countries.

**ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF OUR IMPORTS MUST
BE PAID FOR WITH CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY,
BUT THAT 20 PERCENT IS VERY IMPORTANT,
FOR ITS SPECIFIC VALUE IS OVER 20 PERCENT**

It is important for our people to know that 80 percent of our current imports come from the socialist countries and 20 percent from Western countries. Only about 20 percent of our imports must be paid for with convertible currency, but that 20 percent is very important, for its specific value is over 20 percent. With convertible currency we import medicines, food, raw materials for fodder, raw materials for industry and construction, spare parts and some types of equipment.

Our difficulties are due, on the one hand, to the low prices for sugar and other exports, the pressure put on by the imperialists to limit our credits, the very high interest rates in the finance market, the high price of import products and the difficulties in finding markets for our products, among other things.

On the other hand, we have a sacred duty to fulfill our international financial commitments.

Needless to say, in view of these difficulties we give priority to medicines and food, but we may run out of raw materials for industry and construction which are not found in the socialist countries. In some cases we may have to cut down on working hours and even days of work, making sure that these measures have the least possible effect on workers' incomes.

What the capitalists do when faced with a situation such as this is to turn millions of workers out on the street. We simply cannot adopt such formulas. In England, for example, there are already 3.2 million unemployed, and it is estimated that the industrialized Western countries will soon have as many as 30 million unemployed. We cannot adopt this policy, because what we have must be shared by all.

The Party's idea is that, in these circumstances, the workers should be affected as little as possible. This won't happen in some of the sectors. For example in the sugar sector, in the sugar harvest we'll have to make an all-out effort and work very hard. There are certain sectors with a shortage of manpower where it'll be necessary to work

harder. As you know, the workday in the construction sector was cut down to eight hours this year, but not on all construction projects. What I mean to say is that rather than a policy of unemployment this is a policy of reducing working hours or workdays and whenever it becomes possible we will increase the number of hours. In the construction sector, as soon as we have the raw materials and the resources we need we will go back to the 10-hour workday, the way it was before, and perhaps even longer. The workers who worked on military construction worked 14, 15 and even 16 hours a day for several months. That's the way we'll do it when the circumstances call for it and there is a reason for doing it.

It's possible that in the near future our overall economy will show little growth or no growth at all. Actually, we shouldn't even be afraid of a negative overall growth as long as there's an increase in exports, as long as sugar and other export products increase. There may be a drop in some sectors, in construction for example. And it may also happen that in spite of no overall growth there'll be a growth in the most important sector, that is, exports. This implies sacrifices.

Take coffee, for example. The last harvest showed an increase in production, and this year it's estimated that production will increase by some 100 quintales. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that we'll be able to drink that coffee and distribute it around the country, even though it's one of the products most in demand by our people. The distribution of coffee was affected by the measures taken last year, but every time we have an increase in coffee production we have no alternative but to export it. Our people must be fully aware of this fact.

Our housing needs are very great. There's still a great demand for cement, for construction steel and, as I said before, we have become exporters of construction steel and cement to a certain extent. Naturally, for us the main limiting factor is lumber, but we still need a large amount of construction steel and cement. And yet we must export some of these products.

As I said last October at the closing of the Congress of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, there's no solution in sight for the world's economic problems. Nobody seems to have the answer. The underdeveloped

countries' foreign debt keeps on growing, now surpassing the 500 000-million-dollar mark and continuing to rise like foam, accompanied by a rise in interest rates. For the time being there's no solution in sight.

MOREOVER, THE WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION IS AGGRAVATED BY IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION

Moreover, the world political situation is aggravated by imperialist aggression. We are witnessing this growing imperialist aggressiveness, we read about it every day. It's evident not only in the threats against our country but also, and particularly so, in their actions everywhere. We see it, for example, in the attack on Lebanon, in the attempt to wipe out the Palestinian people and the progressive Lebanese forces. The imperialists have launched a brazen attack in Lebanon, with Zionism as the tool, on the Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians. They have killed thousands of people and are bent on carrying out an act of genocide.

In southern Africa there are the constant attacks and threats by South Africa against Angola. In Mozambique the imperialists have utilized South Africa to introduce thousands of mercenaries in order to organize a counterrevolution, to destabilize the country, to make life unbearable for the people.

In the Malvinas we have seen how the imperialists imposed their policy through the superiority of their military forces and the use of advanced technology.

In Central America we are witnessing the imperialists' aggressiveness in their growing support to the genocidal regime of El Salvador, the increase in arms shipments and the utilization of the Honduran army against the patriotic forces because the Salvadoran army is incapable of defeating them. In Nicaragua we see how the imperialists are overtly organizing the counterrevolution and a destabilization campaign, making use of the territory of Honduras, where they have organized and equipped thousands of former members of Somoza's National Guard and other mercenaries. to invade Nicaraguan territory with increasing frequency.

In the Sahara we see how the imperialists support the Moroccan government and offer to supply it with sophisticated weapons to combat the patriots and impede the independence of that heroic people.

In Europe we see the imperialists' hand in the attempt to deploy 572 middle-range missiles that can reach the territory of the Soviet Union in a matter of minutes; in the economic blockades; and in the plans to sabotage the development of trade relations between the socialist camp and Western Europe, a plan which has given rise to quite a number of contradictions between the United States and its allies. The attempt to boycott the agreement between the Soviet Union and Western Europe to supply natural gas, at a time when obtaining additional energy sources is of vital importance to all countries, reflects the outrageous extremes to which the U.S. administration will go and the arrogance of that administration. Banning the U.S. firms in Europe from building the machinery necessary for the gas pipeline is tantamount to depriving countries of their sovereignty with a stroke of a pen, because the workers who are building the machinery for the gas pipeline are French, West German, British or Italians and it is their countries that will be receiving a guaranteed supply of energy to meet part of their energy needs. The imperialists are sabotaging those projects with a very aggressive policy and resorting to the most farfetched pretexts: that the pipeline would lead to a dependency on the Soviet Union, that it would provide the Soviet Union with the resources to start an arms race and so forth.

The imperialists' arrogance and aggressiveness is made evident in many ways and they affect even their allies, as in the case of the high interest rates set by the United States through certain means. And these excessively high interest rates on loans are blocking all possibilities of recovery for the world economy.

That imperialist administration's absurd ideas about international policy and the world economy are causing serious problems.

Furthermore, when there's talk about the possibility of there being 30 million unemployed — 30 million unemployed in the industrialized countries, mind you! — how could anybody even imagine obstructing the possibilities of workers of those countries to work and produce?

Because of all these things, the U.S. imperialists' ideas of world domination and their attempt to play the role of world gendarme become clearer than ever before.

THE ARMS RACE IS AGGRAVATING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS BY FORCING THE PEOPLE TO SPEND MORE MONEY ON DEFENSE

The arms race is aggravating the economic crisis by forcing the people to spend more money on defense. The United States has set astronomical budgets for arms production with the resulting budget deficit estimated at over 100 000 million dollars by next year. All sane, sensible people who analyze such a policy consider it completely absurd.

Our people must be prepared to cope with this situation through greater internal efforts, including more saving and greater efficiency, and by fulfilling our international duties in the struggle for peace and for the independence, freedom and security of the peoples. The imperialists will never make us shirk our duties. They never succeeded in the past and they never will succeed in the future. (APPLAUSE)

Now there's talk about the independence of Namibia, a country illegally occupied by South African troops. In order to solve the problem of Namibia's independence, the closely united South Africans and U.S. imperialists want to set the prerequisite that the withdrawal of the South African troops from Namibia take place simultaneously with that of Cuban troops from Angola, a position contrary to the stand taken by other European countries in the Contact Group. The government of Angola is completely opposed to the idea with full reason. The role of the South African troops in Namibia is that of illegal occupants and aggressors. The role of the Cuban troops in Angola is that of allies of Angola, of fighters defending Angola's independence and security. (APPLAUSE) Angolans and Cubans have decided on the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola within a period of time agreed on by both governments. (APPLAUSE) When all the South African troops have left Namibia and have moved to the other side of the Orange River, when all danger of an attack on Angola from abroad is over, when all imperialist aid to the UNITA, COMIRA and FLEC

puppet organizations ceases, then we will proceed to gradually withdraw our troops within the period of time agreed on by both governments. (APPLAUSE)

We are clearly very far away from Angola. But even though the South Africans withdraw from Namibia, they can always reach the Angolan border in a matter of hours. Then they can organize puppet groups as they are now doing in Namibia and in Mozambique and as the United States is doing in Nicaragua, organizing thousands of mercenaries to destabilize that country. Therefore, all outside support to the puppet organizations must cease. That is the Angolan government's firm position and we are in accord with that position. (APPLAUSE)

The imperialists want the withdrawal of troops to be carried out according to their conditions so that they can destroy the Angolan Revolution and impose neocolonialism on all black Africa.

The imperialists threaten to use South African mercenaries to attack Angola and every now and then they carry out small-scale attacks, never in-depth. But we warn that if they launch a large-scale attack on Angola and reach our lines, we will engage in a very serious fight with all our means and all our energies against the South African fascists, racists and mercenaries. (PROLONGED APPLAUSE) We fought against these racists once and they are well aware of the tenacity, bravery and firmness of our fighters. It'd be more worthwhile for the imperialists to stop the threats, because they'll never intimidate us. (APPLAUSE) Let us find a just and reasonable solution. Our country maintains a constructive position and would never obstruct any kind of reasonable, fair solution, but that solution must be based on the statements made by the Angolan government and the Cuban government on February 4 of this year.

We believe that there must be firmness, and the history of Cuba demonstrates that firmness is the overriding principle in the face of imperialist threats. However, aggression, the imperialist adventures, seem to be in vogue everywhere. So we'll see what happens. Therefore, we must not only live up to the principle of making our greatest efforts at home, such as more saving and efficiency, but we must also fulfill our international duties. We are not in favor of wars. We are in favor of peace, in favor of solutions. (APPLAUSE) We are well aware of what the consequences of a war would mean to the world, and the danger of war

really does exist. We are in favor of solutions, and we have repeatedly said this in relation to the various trouble spots. We are in favor of solutions for the war between Iraq and Iran, for the Middle East, for Central America, for Angola, for South Africa. Therefore, our attitude is not that of promoting conflict. However, no imperialist threat or aggression will make us step back as much as half an inch. Not even half an inch! (APPLAUSE)

WE MUST BE PREPARED IN OUR OWN COUNTRY TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST ANY IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION ON OUR HOMELAND

We must be prepared in our own country to defend ourselves against any imperialist aggression on our homeland. They probably thought that their threats would pressure us into ending our support to Angola or Ethiopia. But the threats have only served to make us stronger than we were before they started. (APPLAUSE) And we're maintaining our international support and fulfilling our internationalist duties.

I think that the Palestinian example deserves being taken into account. Attacked by highly superior forces, the Palestinians are now besieged in Beirut, in the western half of Beirut, yet they're putting up a firm resistance. When they were told to surrender, they refused. The Palestinians and the Lebanese progressive forces are willing to fight to the death rather than surrender if no honorable solution is possible. They have put the imperialists in a position of having to launch an operation which constitutes a monstrous act of genocide that has had a very high political cost and resulted in the loss of many lives.

The Palestinians' firmness has played an important role in the survival of the Palestinian people. It isn't that there's no longer any danger, but they have managed to survive so far and world public opinion is increasingly swaying more in their favor while opposition to that criminal aggression grows. The firmness and heroism displayed by the Palestinians and progressive Lebanese and the international solidarity, which has greatly encouraged and aided the fighters, have turned the situation around. They were, I

repeat, told to surrender and their answer was that they'd rather die than surrender. (APPLAUSE) The imperialists found a tough bone to gnaw on in West Beirut.

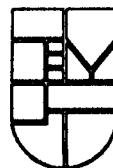
This is a lesson to be taken into account. We have seen similar examples set by other peoples. The Vietnamese people did the same to counter imperialist aggression. The extraordinary and courageous Saharawi fighters are doing the same in the face of their land being invaded by foreign troops. This proves that when there's firmness, when there's heroism, when there's resistance, the imperialists and their aggressive spirit can go only so far.

When we attacked the Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo garrisons 29 years ago, we couldn't have imagined the kinds of problems that would exist today, the problems we've been talking about. But our spirit remains the same and, in fact, has gained strength (APPLAUSE) with the awareness and fighting experience of our entire people. Our noble and courageous people will confront difficulties of any kind and will overcome them. (APPLAUSE) This promise is the best homage we can pay to our heroes and martyrs from the uprising at La Demajagua, the burning down of Bayamo, our Ten Years' War, the death of José Martí at Dos Ríos, the invasion led by Antonio Maceo and Máximo Gómez in 1895, the struggle of 1933, the storming of the Moncada and Bayamo garrisons, the landing of the Granma cabin cruiser, the war in the Sierra Maestra and the cities, the Escambray operations, the victory at Playa Girón, Che's unparalleled heroism in Bolivia, (APPLAUSE) and the internationalist missions in Angola and Ethiopia up until today, as it will be tomorrow and forever.

Patria o muerte!

Venceremos! (OVATION)

- 1 arroba = 11.5 kilograms
- 1 caballería = 13.43 hectares
- 1 quintal = 46 kilograms
- 1 pound = 453.59 grams



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