

October 15, 2007

Sidebar

CUBA IN RUINS

I I echo Peru's journalist Daniel Cordova's conclusion that my native land (mi *Cuba Linda*) is in [total] ruins. Mr. Cordova, recently, wrote an excellent article for *El Comercio*, in Lima, Peru, in which he tells the Hispanic world that Fidel Castro has destroyed Cuba. *Note: Many other Latin American countries will end up with the same misery if their elected rulers follow Castrism.* Cordova writes (I translate and paraphrase, in part.): "Cuba is a country in ruins. Hunger jumps before your eyes. The people are badly dressed. Transportation is in a chaos ... The health system has collapsed. And education [lost its ways] ... In Cuba no one owns his/her home ... All belongs to the State, meaning, of moribund Fidel Castro ... Hunger can be seen in the grocery stores. The quality of foods is inferior to those in Lima.... One sees enormous lines to catch a [dilapidated] bus ... The myth of free healthcare is exposed when talking to a doctor [dentist].... I spent one week in Cuba without reading a newspaper [there is only an eight page Gramma available] ... There is no home internet ... The Cubans do not learn any news [domestic or international] ... The Cubans have become accustomed to censorship and community *vigilancia*...." Cordova concludes: "... Peruvians are being defrauded by the utopia of socialism ..." Mr. Cordova, thank you.

II I wonder if the Cubans, in the homeland, actually realize that there is something better in the modern, progressive world. FC took power in 1959. All he has done is destroy the country of the people he oppresses. But he and his "cronies" live the good life: Stolen mansions, Mercedes Benzes, filet mignons, the best wines, the best clothing, travels, etc. Since there is no *free speech* TV, radio, or printed media, the Cubans remain blind to facts. The Castro-brothers consider the Island as their "farm" and "the people" as their cattle. Mr. Cordova briefly writes on the dire conditions of the hospitals and I add: (In the outside) windows are broken; the doors are destroyed; the walls have not been painted since 1959. (In the inside) complete floors are closed; the bathrooms are worse than in a Soviet *gulag*; the beds are broken (patients have to bring their own sheets, pillows, etc.); and where is the medicine? On the other hand, FC and his "cadre of cronies" have better accommodations and medical care (doctors come from Europe to examine the moribund dictator). I want the dirty *bestia* to live, to live—to suffer, to suffer for what he has done (the total destruction of a wonderful people and of a beautiful land). "*La tierra mas bella que ojos humanos han visto,*" said Cristobal Colon.