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Miami, Florida

## *Sidebar*

### **A New Cuba? Not Under Dictator Raul Castro**

#### **The Despot's Resignation – Contemptible Continuity**

The *resignation* of the Cuban despot (Fidel Castro) means nothing to my generation but for that he is physically and mentally fast passing. He remains the boss. He remains the voice of the “red” revolution. He remains loved, hated, and feared in the island. He will not permit dramatic changes—domestic or in foreign policy. The next leaders (“hardliners” to be appointed on 2/24/08) will vow to *comrade* Fidel—the iconic leader—and will support his core principles. A contemptible continuity will remain. What will be lacking, for sure, is democracy and freedoms. Real, profound changes would destroy the stronghold of the revolution. Fidel installed communism to perpetuate power. That will not change anytime soon. Notwithstanding, some slight, token changes might happen. Perhaps, drop-by-drop to slowly satisfy a younger generation of island Cubans, who are suffering the revolution's political restrictions and economic failures. If minor “changes” get out-of-hand, *Generalissimo* Raul—as the new savior of the revolution—will suppress them. He will add another “red star” to his “26 of July” uniform.

#### **The First Wave**

In 1959, the adult generation of Cuba was between eighteen and eighty. My maternal grandmother was in her seventies when she came to Miami and she died (in Miami) at ninety. My father was fifty nine when he left Cuba and he died (in Miami) at sixty five. His generation has totally passed. I was twenty seven when I left Cuba in 1959. I am seventy four as I write this brief article. Thus, the first wave of exiles is fast passing. A next generation of Cuban-Americans is about to come of age. They may see modest economic reforms in Cuba, if they live long enough. Exile is a waiting game.

#### **A New Generation**

*Comrade* Fidel at eighty one (very ill and purposely hidden) is still in mental control of Cuba. Raul, probably the next selected president, is seventy six and represents the vicious old guard. These two gangsters (and their orthodox cronies) do nothing without a reason, criminal or otherwise. What are they scheming? Here is my view. They are waiting for a *new* generation of Cubans—in the island and in exile—to accept a fresh, limited dominant system. What do I mean? They believe that a China-model (keep political power in the Communist Party—supported by the army—and open some doors to controlled capitalism) will permit the “red revolution” to survive another fifty years regardless of the conditions of the island-people. They will attempt to “mix” communism with [drops of] capitalism. They hope that the new generation will accept it. Hence, by allowing some “controlled business activity” (under the surveillance of Father Party) and a few inconsequential policy changes (such as, the release of some political prisoners, allowing more space for religion and schools, and allowing some travel and private

enterprise) will cause acceptance worldwide. Surely, this Asiatic mix-system will pick up strong support from foreign leaders (mostly anti-American leftist). They hope to change the image of Cuba with the help of the *new* generational phenomenon. They are wrong! This oppressed island-generation demands democracy, freedom, and capitalism. (Meaning: permitting political parties, open political debate, fair elections, freedom of speech (press), and free market activity.) Unfortunately, that will not happen anytime soon. Unrest may develop. The old guard will repress it. The Cuban-Americans know and understand the blessings of democracy and freedoms, so they will not accept the mirage.

### **No New Changes**

Assuming that by allowing such token activity “human rights” are restored is a sham. The people remain in chains. The 200+ political prisoners will not all be released and more will join them if they mistakenly react to false changes. Freedom of speech will not be permitted—only *Granma* speaks in Cuba. Only Fidel dictates policy: no new changes. Nevertheless, pacifists (such as Zapatero’s PSOE—in Spain) will push for lifting the US Embargo and for permitting more dollar and euro contacts with the *new* Cuba. That is what the 2/24/08 leaders expect—that is how they will continue control and slavery (just take a look at China—the communist rich [*comunistas de cinco estrellas*] get richer and the poor majority *bien gracias*). Common Cubans earn about \$20 per month—that is abject misery! But the “members of the high command” are millionaires. They also expect that Cuban-Americans, younger than the Peter Pan group, living in the USA will flock to the island and start businesses: developing banks, opening clinics, opening golf courses, building roads, developing farms, etc. That will not happen! They also hope billions of dollars will parachute into Cuba. They are wrong! They also expect more tourists—US tourists. That will only happen if the Helms-Burton Act is changed under a flaky Democrat government headed by a grossly naïve Barack Hussein Obama or a liberal Hillary Rodham Clinton. They also expect that exiled Cubans (some are really not exiles) maintain a yearly billion-dollar flow for their island families. That will continue. The communist leaders appreciate and enjoy those hard dollars. They will hold “sham” elections to please some friendly Latin American and European nations. The “American leftists”—strong pacifists—will go wild with these [false] reforms. They are, indeed, twenty-first century “fellow-travelers”—they want a dialogue with communist Cuba. Shame on you!

### **Reality**

There is no quick and immediate change in communist Cuba. Under an autocratic system created by the Castro-brothers and their “old” cronies (most are vanilla common criminals) tropical changes will not lead to “fundamental freedoms” and “a free market economy.” Changes (if any) will be pure fiction, a mirage. The communist rulers of Cuba fear fundamental freedoms more than they fear “cancer.” The TV and radio airwaves will remain closed. Foreign “pirates” (Hugo Chavez, *el colorado*, for example) will sail to Cuba to prey on the slaved people and to do business—legal and illegal—with the communist leaders. He will come bringing “oil” gifts, if he does not bankrupt Venezuela first. These “pirates” (from Spain, Canada, China, Russia, Venezuela, etc.) have been in Cuba for decades—a token opening will just invite more of them. The picture window just gets larger—showing “scum.” The 2/24/08 leadership of communist despots will

continue to reap the benefits of their cruel power. They will “PR” real and profound changes (great social progress and positive economic pragmatism) hoping to *trick* the third-world and the liberal and naïve US-Democrat Party, if they win. There will be plenty of Cuban empty oratory and anti-American sentiment espoused by *comrade* Fidel until he joins, in Hell, his idols: Marx, Lenin, and Hitler. (Will we learn of his death?) Then, “who” will emerge as the charismatic communist spokesperson? It might be Fidel from his tomb. His writings will not cease. Will he exist forever? I opine: Do not wait for irreversible changes—perestroika and glasnost. Do not wait for human freedom. Do not wait for essential economic changes. Do not wait for cellphones and computers to become legal. Do not wait for the advanced 1940 Constitution to be revived. Do not wait for the communist regime to collapse—Raul and his *generales* firmly hold the “chains-of-power.” Goodbye to Fidel’s tropical communism. Not yet.