



THE NEW NATION



Official Newsletter of the Nationalist Democratic Party of Cuba

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\$10,000 from PNDC to Lawton Foundation

By **ARIEL REMOS**
Diario Las Americas

The Nationalist Democratic Party of Cuba (PNDC), headed by Secretary General Alfredo M. Cepero, celebrated a gala luncheon with over 300 attendees in honor of Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and his Lawton Foundation of Human Rights. Proceeds from the luncheon held on April 16 at the Miami-Dadeland Marriott Hotel provided a financial contribution of \$10,000 for the Lawton Foundation and was accepted on its behalf by the foundation's vice president, Dr. Angel Garrido, M.D. In addition, Dr. Biscet was granted the award "Champion of Liberty" by the PNDC, as was expressed by Cepero at the event "in recognition of his patriotism and courage, his extraordinary moral values, religious principles, and vocation towards civil service which make him a lighthouse and guide of a free, democratic and just Cuba that Cubans aspire to."

Dr. Biscet, a prisoner of conscience in Cuba that is serving out a 25-year sentence for defending the rights of the unborn and for



Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart

demanding freedom and respect for the human rights of the people of Cuba, is a representative figure in the opposition to tyranny and presides over the Lawton Foundation of Human Rights.

A varied and rich representation of many patriotic organizations of the Cuban exile

community as well as officials, elected and otherwise, from different levels of government were present at the event in solidarity, among them Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart who offered words of praise towards the organization and its determination to honor Dr. Biscet.

The afternoon discourse was entrusted to the popular journalist Ninoska Perez-Castellon, delivering emotional and thought-provoking words. She said that Dr. Biscet is one of those men that, in the history of nations where tyranny has dwelled, "always arise in the most difficult of moments" with actions that have "the same devastating effects that light has upon darkness."

The invocation was presented by the Reverend Benjamin Valdes, a former political prisoner, and the welcome was the task of PNDC member Luis Gabriel Chiappy, who also served as master of ceremony during the event. The musical number and grand finale was performed by singer Maggie Carles and Cuban singer and author Dacio Tomas.

The Assembly: A door towards democracy

On May 21 in Havana, the theme "A door opens" concluded the meetings of the Assembly for the Promotion of a Civil Society which was presided by economist and former prisoner of conscience Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello. The General Resolution Project adopted by the Assembly, among other things, agreed upon:

1-Demand the immediate release of all political prisoners without lists, terms or exclusions ... Require that these releases be truly unconditional and without exile, for which they should be granted via an irrevocable legal judicial resolution.

2-Demand the immediate return of our Country to its demo-



Marta Beatriz-Roque

See **ASSEMBLY**, page 3

European lawmakers upset with Castro

By **HAROLD HECKLE**
Associated Press (Excerpts)

MADRID, SPAIN (AP) – Lawmakers from Spain, Italy and Germany urged their governments to take a tougher line with Cuba after the communist government expelled a number of Europeans ahead of an opposition rally in Havana (Assembly for the Promotion of the Civil Society)...Two former Spanish senators, Isabel San Baldomero and Rosa López Garnica, were expelled as were lawmakers from Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic.

Arnold Vaatz, a German law-

maker, who was expelled from Cuba on May 20th called for the European Union to take a stronger stand against Cuba. "With its decision to lift (diplomatic) sanctions against Cuba, the European Union has made itself the accomplice of Fidel Castro's government", Vaatz was quoted as saying by the Leipzig Volkszeitung daily. Six Poles, an Italian and a deputy from the regional Catalan Convergence and Unity party were also ordered to leave the country.

The diverse dissident groups debated pro-democracy proj-

See **EUROPE**, page 3



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CHAMPION OF LIBERTY



Presentation of check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights. From left to right: Alfredo M. Cepero, Secretary General of PNDC, Armando Laviña, member of the Board of Directors of PNDC, Angel Garrido, M.D., Vice-president of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, Francisco Cortina, Secretary of Finances of the PNDC and Osvaldo Vento, Sr., member of the Board of Directors of the PNDC.



Mrs. Ninoska Pérez-Castellón, Director, Cuban Liberty Council.



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo González, Mr. and Mrs. Osvaldo Manzano, (person not identified), Mr. and Mrs. Rolando Jaspe, Mr. Miguel Gómez and Mr. and Mrs. Jorge de la Hoz.



Executives of Supermix Concrete and its president Mr. José (Pepe) Cancio.



Partners and members of accounting firm BDO-Seidman. From left to right (seated) Mr. and Mrs. Jorge Herrera, Mr. and Mrs. Albert López (Managing Partner), and Manny Munguia. Standing, Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo N. Cepero.



Presentation of the plaque of "Champion of Liberty" honoring Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. From left to right: Alfredo M. Cepero, Angel Garrido, M.D., and Isabel Calama, Secretary of Organization of PNDC.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

If you share our goals of a free and democratic Cuba, write check or money order to PND-CUBA and send it to the above address.



General view of attendees to the luncheon.



Alfredo M. Cepero



Maggie Carlés

Drug minister Raul

The communist regime of Cuba has been characterized from its start for its lack of any trace of morality, honesty, transparency and even common sense. Thereby, the declarations of one of the assassins of the Medellin cartel under direct orders from Pablo Escobar Gaviria should have come of no surprise to anyone. In those declarations it is clear that the Cuban government counts on a Minister of Drug Trafficking in its cabinet. And this minister is none other than Raul Castro, the second man among those that torment Cuba.

John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, alias "Popeye," who was private secretary and head of security for Pablo Escobar, recently revealed that Raul Castro kept in close and constant contact with the Medellin cocaine cartel and protected drug shipments to Miami from Cuba for years. In comments made to correspondent Juan Restrepo of Television Espanola, "Popeye" assured that

the link between Raul Castro and the Medellin cartel was the Cuban captain Jorge Martinez Valdes, who traveled regularly to Colombia to meet with Escobar. "The drugs arrived directly in Cuba. They did it through Central America or directly through Cuba in airplanes, and from there via boat to Miami," narrated "Popeye."

Some of the evidence supposedly linking high ranking Cuban military officials with the drug trafficking was aired out in a judicial briefing in 1989 that culminated with a death sentence for General Arnaldo Ochoa, Colonel Antonio de la Guardia and Captains Amado Padron and, coincidentally, Jorge Martinez Valdes, the very same captain Valdes connecting Raul Castro and Pablo Escobar. Therefore, we must, at least, ask ourselves if the execution of the accused was an act of justice or simply a scheme to guarantee immunity to the chief racketeers of the Havana cartel, the Castro brothers.

Europe, from page 1

ects on Saturday May 21, the second and final day of the conference. "We are satisfied that each and everyone of us has fulfilled our duty to our nation", said Martha Beatriz Roque, a former political prisoner and lead organizer of the Assembly for the Promotion of the Civil Society.

Mariano Rajoy, leader of Spain's opposition Popular Party, criticized the government handling of Cuba. "Where is it written that the Spanish prime minister must make himself popular with a tyrant as he yet again proved yesterday, like Fidel Castro, or with someone who's unbalanced, like the president of Venezuela?" he said.

Paradise for Terrorists

The last few weeks have been a nightmare for the decrepit, bloodthirsty tyrant of Cuba. The Commission on Human Rights of the UN condemned the regime during its meeting in Geneva; and the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society was able to finalize its deliberations and adopt its resolutions despite the intimidation and ruse from the tyranny.

Castro unsuccessfully tried to distract attention from his failures with his usual tirade and lies aided by his foot soldiers within the obliging and mainstream media of the US.

For more than two weeks, Castro in Havana and his friends in the United States took on the false claims that George Bush had given refuge to Luis Posada Carriles in this country. Without analyzing Posada's guilt or innocence, the fact remains that his destiny will be decided before the American immigration courts and not

These fugitives are wanted for crimes of murder, terrorism, air piracy

from a demagogic grandstand or before prejudicial courts like those of the communist government of Cuba.

What Castro does not want to talk about nor does the mainstream American media highlight are the more than 50 fugitives of the United States that, with the approval of the tyrant, have made Cuba a true paradise for terrorists.

These fugitives are wanted for crimes of murder, terrorism, air piracy, theft and even multi-million dollar fraud as is the case with the notorious financier Robert Vesco.

The American cop killers Assasta Shakur, Michael Finney, and Charles Hill can also be found there, as can the convicted terrorists William Morales and Victor Manuel Gerena from Puerto Rico.

Assembly, from page 1

cratic traditions, of multiple parties, programs, political ideologies and candidates... Proclaim the basic Cuban heritage of our fellow exiled patriots and their inalienable rights as members of the Cuban nation. Demand that their access to active and passive suffrage, be recognized as well as the rest of their civil rights, and other requisites, in the steps to have residency in Cuba.

3-Proclaim the total support of the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society of Cuba to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document of which the Republic of Cuba was a participant and a signer, and demand that the Cuban government integrally respect said international document in its thirty articles.

4-Demand the immediate abolishment of the death penalty from the current government.

5-Proclaim the empirical need to effect profound economic changes that grants economic freedom to its citizens, that will redound in the development of civil society and democracy throughout the country...

Outline, especially within the reforms that the country needs, for its leaders to immediately foment foreign investment to support a sustaining development of the country and increment purchasing power and exports as quickly as possible.

6-Make note of the intensely propagandistic campaign unleashed by the government against terrorism and require them to adopt measures like expelling members of the Basque organization ETA from Cuba and any other foreign terrorists that have taken refuge here... Present public apologies to the family members of the deceased from the sunken tugboat "13 de marzo" and the aircrafts shot down on February 24, 1996, as well as those executed in judicial processes and all other victims.

7-Declare that the General Meeting celebrated on May 20 and 21, 2005, although it carries an indubitable importance, it merely

constitutes an indispensable step towards the new era in the peaceful struggle that the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society in Cuba will initiate May 22, 2005... Proclaim that the indissoluble union between the democratic Cubans that live on the island and those that live in exile represent a fundamental element in the cooperative, peaceful struggle that is in favor of democratic change and, consequently, the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society will do everything in its power to further consolidate that union.

8-Approve in a special way the ideal maintained until now for the Assembly for the Promotion of Civil Society to be an inclusive coalition.

CUBAN EVENTS

CASTRO DISCRIMINATES AGAINST AFRO-CUBANS

Not even the most devoted apologists of Fidel Castro's tyranny dares to deny any longer the violation of human rights in Cuba.

Beyond that, in Castro's Cuba there is a segment of the population that is subject to a larger discrimination when it comes to sharing in the few opportunities that can be enjoyed under a totalitarian regime. Compared to the rest of the population, Afro-Cubans are at the bottom of the barrel.

That is the picture that comes out of a report published recently by the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami.

In spite of the fact that Afro-Cubans account for 62 percent of the total population, only five percent of them drive a car in the city of Havana, 33 percent occupy seats in the National Assembly, 29 percent are members of the Council of State, 26 percent have gained posi-

In spite of the fact that Afro-Cubans account for 62 percent of the total population, only five percent of them drive a car

tions in the Communist Party apparatus and there is not a single black among the top ten active generals of the armed forces.

They hold, however, the sad record of amounting to 85 percent of the prison population. In light of these

somber statistics, one has to wonder why so many African-American leaders and politicians are so friendly to the dictator.

CUBA'S FOREIGN DEBT OUT OF CONTROL

To no one surprise, Cuba's foreign debt has skyrocketed under the communist regime.

It is estimated that it has multiplied by more than 50 times since Castro took over in 1959, according to a report by the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American of the University of Miami. In 2004, Cuba owed \$13 billion in hard currency and \$22 billion in non-convertible debt, 95 percent of it to Russia. In hard currency, the debt amounted to \$1,176 per-capita.

If we include rubbles owed to Russia, the debt amounted to \$3,100 per-capita.

In 1958, before Castro took over, Cuba's foreign debt was \$315 million for a per-capita of \$49.

INSIDE:



- \$10,000 from PNDC to Lawton Foundation
- The Assembly: A door towards democracy
- European lawmakers upset with Castro
- Drug minister Raul
- Terrorist Paradise
- Castro discriminates against Afro-Cubans
- Cuba's foreign debt out of control



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