

NEWSLETTER Amistad



“HURRICANE DENNIS & CUBA” FUNDRAISING

People across Canada are again opening up their hearts to Cuba in the wake of the loss of 16 lives and great material destruction wrought by Hurricane Dennis across Cuba.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HURRICANE'S DISASTROUS EFFECTS and A LIST OF OTHER FRIENDSHIP OR SOLIDARITY GROUPS ACROSS CANADA who are also fundraising for Cuban Hurricane Relief, visit the Canadian Network on Cuba website:
www.CanadianNetworkOnCuba.ca

The Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto is fundraising. Please write in memo section of the cheque “Cuban Hurricane Relief”

TO DONATE MONEY AND RECEIVE A CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPT : You can mail a cheque directly to the **CCFA Toronto PO Box 743 Stn F, Toronto ON M4Y 2N6**

The charitable receipt will come from the ‘Mackenzie-Papineau Memorial Fund’

[Revenue Canada Charitable reg.# 88876 9197 RR0001]

TO DONATE GOODS such as construction tools/electrical/kitchen supplies & clothes, Contact the John Dubois Foundation of Princeton, Ontario for details:
email: mirloblanco@execulink.ca

Cuban Hurricane Relief continued on page 2

Please read the enclosed page: “Cuban Hurricane Fund” “Cuba Civil Defense/US Civil Defense”



A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Canada-Cuba Diplomatic Relations

Dinner and Cultural
Program

Pianist Hilario Duran, Dance Exhibit and more,
Live Band

Saturday 22 October, 2005 7:00pm

Fountain Dining Room,
Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, Toronto

Tickets: \$45 per person (cash bar)

(a member of the CCFA Toronto has the option of paying \$40 for him or herself)

**Fundraiser for the Cuban Hurricane Relief Fund
Prize - 2 Cubana air tickets Toronto/Havana**

For tickets / Info: CCFA Toronto 416-410-8254
or Sharon 905-951-8499

Mail cheques to: CCFA Toronto

PO Box 743 Stn F Toronto ON M4Y 2N6

‘Mission Against Terror’ Documentary

Monday, 19 Sep/05 7:00pm

An impressive documentary by an Irish and a Cuban filmmaker on a cross-Canada tour from Sep 19-Oct 7 premiering in Toronto and then travelling to 12 cities with Q/A period with co-directors Bernadette Dwyer & Roberto Ruiz.

The film examines the 45 year old USA-based terrorist attacks against Cuba with over 3,000 lost Cuban and other lives, including 1 Italian-Canadian resident.

It also outlines the plight of the ‘Cuban Five’ men serving their 7th year with documented violations of the prisoners basic human rights.

Tho the US military testified that they were not spying, and only reported on the terrorist activities originating in Florida, they were convicted in Miami with long sentences of 15 years to life.

Where: George Brown College, St. James Campus
200 King St East at Jarvis, Room: Theatre 128.

Door: donations from \$5 up

A BIRTHDAY MILESTONE FOR CCFA CHAIR LEE LORCH

Prof. Lee Lorch has been Chair of the CCFA Toronto for many years. Many people half his age would balk at accepting such a challenge. This September Lee will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

He was born in New York City in 1915 and graduated from Cornell University in 1935. He did his graduate work at the University of Cincinnati, to a Ph.D. degree in 1941. He joined the US army and served in India and the Pacific 1943 to 1946. His first academic position was City College of New York.

His life-long devotion to scholarship has been recognized in a number of ways including Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research election to the Councils of the Canadian and American Mathematical Societies, and to the Council of the Royal Society of Canada, and lecture invitations from many countries.

Lee is also a tireless fighter for peace, human rights, educational opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities. He is a long time member and supporter of the Pugwash Conference.

His long, courageous and continuing struggle for civil rights and for equal educational opportunities for minority groups was carried on at great personal cost including blacklisting which forced him to move from the United States to Canada in 1959. For example, in the late forties, the Lorches attempted to end racial segregation in Stuyvesant Town, a large housing development in New York City. As a consequence, Lee was dismissed from the City College of New York, and subsequently was dismissed from his new position at Pennsylvania State University because he let a black family occupy his Stuyvesant Town apartment.

A few years later (1955), he was dismissed from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, for refusing to testify before the House Committee on Un-American activities. He was called before this Committee after the Lorches attempted to enroll their daughter in their neighbourhood and previously all-black school, following the Supreme Court's decision that school segregation was unconstitutional.

In 1957, Grace Lonergan Lorch rescued a 15-year-old girl from a mob which was resisting the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas where Lee was then employed at Philander Smith College. As a result of their various actions, the funding of this small black college was then placed in jeopardy so he was forced out.

Professor Lorch moved to Canada in 1959 and spent nine years at the University of Alberta before moving to York University in 1968. He retired from York in 1985 holding the position of Professor Emeritus.



He is well known for speaking out on behalf of all who are the victims of discrimination and aggression. He is a tireless fighter for the cause of Cuba and strongly condemns the U.S. economic blockade against that country at every opportunity. In 2003, Lee was awarded the Medal of Solidarity by the *Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos* (ICAP) [Cuban Institute of Friendship Among Peoples].

Lee and Grace Lorch in 1943

Lee's lifelong struggles have made a difference not only in people's lives but the reputation of the CCFA has also been enhanced because of Lee's presence and influence.

In a speech at one of the many conferences he has attended, he quoted the following:

"History, despite its wrenching pain, Cannot be un-lived, but if faced With courage, need not be lived again." - Maya Angelou

Cuban Hurricane Relief - continued from page 1

Some of Cuba's outstanding humanitarian work for other countries:

Cuban doctors and medical personnel are working free of charge or for minimal cost in many Third World countries. In Haiti, for example, more than 500 Cuban medical personnel are treating free of charge 80% of the country's population, with dramatic reductions in infant and maternal mortality rates.

In order to make such gains permanent and indigenous to Haiti, Cuba set up a medical school for Haitian students in Haiti. The school had been in operation for three years, with an enrolment of some 300 students, when the United States, as part of the exercise to remove the Aristide-led government from power, billeted its soldiers in the school, effectively closing it down. Yet the Cubans who continued their medical services to the people of Haiti in the ensuing chaotic and dangerous conditions, were not deterred. They also transported the more than 300 medical students to Santiago to continue their schooling there free of charge.

Other Haitian students are studying, along with more than 8,000 other financially challenged but ethically motivated students from this hemisphere, at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, all free of charge – including some poor students from the United States – the only condition being that they will return to practice in areas that have no or few existing doctors or supply medical care to the over 40 million citizens who have no health insurance in the expensive, private-for profit US health care system.

As well, Operation Miracle, the programme by which cataract operations have already been carried out in Cuba on more than 27,000 Venezuelans to have their eyesight restored, often from total blindness, has now been expanded to include 100,000 Venezuelans, 100,000 people from the rest of Latin American and 15,000 from the other Caribbean islands.

Greetings from the New President Looking Back over the Years

As part of the 12 member executive elected at our Annual General Membership meeting in May, I am pleased to have the honour and responsibility of being President of the CCFA Toronto. One of our newest executive members commented that he has never worked with such an interesting and selfless group as the CCFA.

I look forward to a year of special events, growth and success in our work building friendship between Canadians and Cubans and further strengthening the long time ties between our two countries. This year we will celebrate 60 years of continuous diplomatic relations between Canada and Cuba.

Looking back to when we started in 1977, we have come a long way. In our first year we designed a logo, opened a bank account, drafted a constitution, established contact with ICAP (Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) and adopted a plan of work to celebrate significant Cuban dates and carry out educational, cultural and material aid campaigns.

We were the first to bring Nueva Trova singers to perform in Toronto, followed by many other Cuban musical groups, dancers, poets and writers, painters and photographers and film directors. We also organized public meetings, local and regional conferences, as well as demonstrations against the US blockade and for the return of Elián González to his father in Cuba.

Now after all these years, we are part of the Canadian Network on Cuba, which last year successfully raised over \$82,000 for hurricane relief for Cuba. We have working relations with many other organizations and are part of the Free the Five Committee, among others. We celebrated our tenth year of the official Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day at City Hall, where federal, provincial and municipal representatives, along with consul generals and others from various Caribbean and Latin American countries, brought greetings. It was a special day for all, where after the official raising of the Cuban flag, the public enjoyed music, dance, exhibits, snacks and drink.

The CCFA membership can be proud of its history and its continuing work in solidarity with Cuba. We know how the Cuban people have courageously stood up to all kinds of attacks from the different U.S. administrations, and whatever we can do to support Cuba in its efforts is vital.

I am confident that together, the CCFA will continue to grow in both numbers and resourcefulness to meet the challenges ahead of us.

Elizabeth Hill, President CCFA Toronto

Hosting Cuba's Peace Group (MOVPAZ) on their Cross-Canada Tour

Arriving in Toronto on Saturday, the three members of the Cuban Peace group were extremely well hosted by Elizabeth Hill and the CCFA Toronto. The group headed by Orlando Fundora, President of the World Peace Council and the Cuban Peace Movement, celebrated interviews with various high ranking personalities of the peace movement in Ontario, as well as with leaders of community projects in the province. The other members were Manuel Yepes and Maria Elena Cabezas.

On Sunday morning, CCFA Toronto took them to Niagara Falls and in the evening arranged a reception which included the Cuban Consul, Marta Valdes, and the full Consular staff. They ended the visit to Toronto with a public forum organized by the Toronto Socialist Action and CCFA Toronto, CPC, NPD Socialist Caucus, Socialist Voice and various other organizations and coalitions where all three spoke.

On Tuesday July 19th, they flew to Regina (Fundora and Yepe) and Saskatoon (Maria Elena Cabezas) in the continuation of their working tour through Canada.



Manuel Yepes, Elizabeth Hill, Maria Elena Cabezas, Orlando Fundora

We regret to inform all of the passing of Don Quinn in August. Don was past Chair of the CCFA Niagara and served in many other worthy causes throughout his life. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends.

Three* Members of the Canadian Volunteer Work Brigade in Cuba Spoke at CCFA Toronto's 10TH Anniversary of Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day at City Hall

“Give What You Have, Not What You Have Left”

by Hollis Pearson

My experience and knowledge of Cuba is relatively fresh and just like Cuba itself, ongoing work in forward motion. When I think of Cuba, I think of its people. When I think of its people, I think of collective community, I think of true heart and I think of genuine pride.

Our time in the city of Trinidad, located in the province of Sancti Spiritus gave us the most opportunity out of our whole trip to feel the strength and collective attitude of the Cuban community we were staying in. Our brigade had come to participate in a group effort with community members to clean up and repair José Mendoza elementary school which had been damaged by hurricane Dennis. On our first day at the school we were greeted by the principal, some teachers and many of the young students themselves who throughout the next week-and-a-half, worked with us to clean, paint and repair the school.

Tools and materials were, of course, extremely limited so we Canadians were soon in complete awe at the resourceful creativity of our Cuban friends as they combined old and used materials to make tools to get the labour done. When we visited the Cuban Women's Federation in Trinidad, there existed the same pride and participation around working together on developing and implementing social services needed in the community.

I arrived in Cuba at a point in my life of much reflection and wanting to discover new resiliency in life. In Cuba, the warmth and hospitality that received us throughout our trip was just one example of the constant heart and pride expressed by the people we met throughout our travels. An expression I heard in Cuba illustrated so well the strength of the people's faith in unity: “Give what you have, not what you have left.”

In Cuba many things were redefined for me. When I went to Cuba, solidarity to me meant many working as one for a common objective. Now, I define solidarity with many more dimensions. It represents unity, equality, vision and pride. Cuba will continue to inspire and teach me much more in the years to come, for my awareness is in its infancy and so hungry for more Canada-Cuba solidarity.

(Photo on page 8)

* We will print the other speeches in the next issue of Amistad.

Highlights from Salsa in the City Square 10th Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day

by Ann Nicholson

Salsa in the City Square — the exciting name suggested by our new CCFA's Executive member, Brien Young, certainly struck a chord with the mainstream media. We were listed in all the event columns, we were mentioned on radio, TV, and listserves across the City. We had more display/info tables than ever before. And the people showed up. Even a brief rainfall didn't deter the crowd. They just huddled under umbrellas and the overhang of City Hall until the rain stopped. After a welcome from **MC David Warner** who read greetings from **Premier Dalton McGuinty**, and **ICAP, The Hon. Jean Augustine, MP** spoke about the 60 years of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Canada. Then **Peter Kormos MPP** called for an end to the US Embargo against Cuba, for the release of the Cuban Five and reminded us “Bacardi — No : Havana Club — Si.” **Cll. Joe Mihevc** spoke and read greetings from **Mayor David Miller** and **Elizabeth Hill**, President of CCFA talked about the enduring friendship between Canada and Cuba. **Mrs. Mary Carmen Arencibia**, Commercial Counsellor,



Embassy of Cuba in Ottawa spoke of how much Canadian solidarity was appreciated.

Honey Novick sang Canada's national anthem in English and French followed by the Cuban national anthem in Spanish while the Cuban flag was raised over City Hall.

Roberto and Irina, two Cuban professional dancers, brought the mood of Afro-cuban and modern Tropicana to Toronto.

Brian Burr and Martha Toole dance to hot, hot Cuban music of **Pablo Terry and Sol de Cuba** band! *Photos by Cahill - also page 6 & 8*
Global Pantry's Food a Hit! Members of Global Pantry, a Fund-Raising Project linked to Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre*, provided delicious food at the 10TH Anniversary Friendship Day. For info about their catering services, contact: (416) 465-6021
Wally Brooker's Jazz Quartet played Latin Jazz.



Venceramos Brigade Homecoming 2005

An exhilarating sense of accomplishment was sharply evident in the bright faces of some 70 Venceramos Brigade travel band challengers assembled in Fort Erie on August 1/05. The group included Venceramos Brigadistas (US Volunteer Work Brigade to Cuba), Women's Challenge from Seattle, Washington and the Cesar Chavez Labour Challenge from Detroit, Michigan.

The first thing that struck us was a vibrant exuberance as if the brigadistas were just beginning their journey. A brief ceremony including a welcome from Peter Kormos, Ontario MPP, who is always there for us, some socializing and the Brigade was then ready to roll.

As in previous crossings, the Brigadistas were required by authorities to split into five splinter groups and to conduct their crossing in timed intervals. Several Canadians interspersed themselves within the five groups and walked the one and a half mile span alongside of the brigadistas.

Walking the footpath alongside of busy four-lane traffic was not a requirement of bridge authorities. It was a choice made by the Brigadistas themselves in order to make a public statement of their resolve. And visible it was. Very few people cross the Peace Bridge by foot. Their bright Venceramos Brigade shirts visibly stamped with their logo and their message made their cause unmistakable to the passing traffic.

Peace Bridge vehicular travelers do not notice the pronounced altitude changes when crossing the bridge. As one crosses from Canada into the US, it is a continuous upward go for about two thirds of the total distance. Wearing backpacks, dragging their luggage behind them, passing over the international boundary marked by Canadian and American flags; doggedly trudging ever upward, the group finally reached the third leg of the crossing. The downward slope gave some respite to the weary foot travelers.

Once in US customs, the Brigadistas were required to fill out and sign the now familiar affidavits. As in previous challenges, Brigadistas refused to comply with all of the requirements. They were duly listed and allowed to pass through. The waiting game begins anew even as last year's unresolved threats still lurk in the dark creases of the Bush mindset.

One wonders just what transpires within the reclusive Bush inner sanctum. At this moment, Rumsfeld's global interests are unraveling like rolling balls of yarn and the Mad Hatters are scurrying to keep abreast. If Bush regains the luxury of once again focusing exclusively on Cuba and Central America, it would be bad news for everyone.

Helen Santek, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Niagara

Cruise Photos by Cahill



Cuban Consul Marta Valdes plays maracas for Pablo Terry and his band *Sol de Cuba* on CCEA Toronto's recent cruise around Toronto Islands.



Enjoying lunch and dancing on the CCEA cruise!



A quiet section of the boat cruise



An Account of Cuba's Recent Conference Against Terrorism *By Prof. Keith Ellis*

With the terrorist attacks on key centres of the United States on September 11, 2001, the world's awareness of the atrocious acts and threats of terrorism was heightened. Cuba was among the first countries to offer assistance to the United States, making available medical supplies and personnel as well as airport facilities for U.S. passenger aircraft.

Cuba's response was greatly prompted by the natural humanitarian empathy of its people, intensified by its own prolonged experience of being victims of terrorist attacks. Fair-minded people, especially those who had been suffering the anguish of witnessing or experiencing the manifestations of terror in Latin America, for which the United States itself bore great responsibility, welcomed the announced U.S. plans to oppose terrorism, hopeful that the opposition would be a principled one, free finally of the double standards that had characterized its conduct in this regard.

Alas, this has not been the case. Terror networks with lengthy association with the United States government have been left untouched. Recently declassified information has revealed the depth of this association. Five Cubans who reported on terrorist activities against Cuba, planned in Florida, were arrested and sentenced, after an egregious travesty of a legal process, to terms that are among the most iniquitous in U.S. legal history. Moreover, one of the pair of the most notorious terrorists in this hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles (the other, Orlando Bosch, has been living free in Miami, unrepentant, boasting of his crimes, and embraced in the circle of the Cuban American National Foundation and of the Bushes), arrived in the U.S. in March of this year, claiming his right to asylum there. After having served a small part of an eight-year sentence for planning to blow up an auditorium at the University of Panama while Cuban President Fidel Castro would address close to 1,000 Panamanian students and staff, he was pardoned by the Panamanian President, Mireya Moscoso. She did this on August 25, 2004, at the end of her incumbency and just before she left her country to live in Miami. Bush's reluctance to grant Venezuela's request that Posada Carriles be extradited to that country [which US law requires him to do so], where he had been jailed for his role in blowing up a Cubana Airlines passenger plane in 1976, killing 73 people, has provoked great indignation .

When Cuba organized a Conference Against Terrorism and In Defense of Humanity (June 3-6), 681 delegates from 67 countries attended at short notice.

Many of them, especially from Latin America and the Caribbean, victims or relatives of victims of state terror not only in Cuba but in Central and South America, as well as historians of terrorism, gave moving and sometimes horrendous accounts.



All 73 passengers (plus 1 unborn child) and crew of the Cubana Airlines plane bombed by Posada Carriles and other terrorists in 1976 died.

Photo: Allen McInnis, The Gazette

They spoke of the crimes perpetrated by terrorists such as Bosch, Posada Carriles and their associates in the torture and murder of tens of thousands in Central and South America within organizations such as the Condor Plan, which served such clients as Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and the Argentinian generals of the Dirty War. The documented collusion of the U.S. in these terrorist atrocities and the U.S.'s glaring double standards were prominent themes treated by the delegates. A principled struggle against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including a catalogue and a tribunal to consider cases, will be a continuing contribution of the Conference



Banner at CCEA Toronto's

10th Annual Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day

CUBAN FIVE RESPOND TO COURT DECISION

Ramon Labañino, one of the Five anti-terrorist Cubans unjustly imprisoned in the United States, sent a message of appreciation to the Cuban people and friends around the world for their solidarity, after the positive decision of the Court of Appeals.

“To all the brothers and sisters who in one way or another have helped in the cause of the Five: Congratulations, because this has been a triumph of justice, but of solidarity as well,” said Labañino in his message published in the Rebel Youth (Juventud Rebelde) newspaper.

The past August 9, the Court of Appeals of Atlanta overturned the sentences that weighed upon him and his comrades Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, in prison since 1998.

The judges who revised the case also ordered a new trial outside of Miami, bastion of the Cuban counterrevolution abroad.

The Atlanta decision was preceded by a decision of a group of experts from the United Nations, which recognized the illegality of the detentions and the trial, which followed in the city of Miami, as they are also known, and it called for remedies to the case.

“These are now two big blows for those who are trying to keep us imprisoned, that from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions of the UN, which was categorical in its conclusion, and now the 11th Circuit gave its verdict,” said Labañino, who [was] sentenced to life plus 18 years.

In spite of never losing his hope, the economist feels more optimistic than ever especially after reading the 93 pages of the judges’ decision and he notes how sweeping was their response, explained his wife Elizabeth Palmeiro, after a short visit with him in the prison. It is very difficult to appeal something so well argued o full of ethics, as he told his wife during their visit. He also said that they “were certain that outside of Miami the outcome would be different and Atlanta is the proof.”

Why Care about Posada Carriles?

On June 13, in 12 cities of the United States, and several in Canada, demonstrators supported Venezuela’s request for the extradition of Luis Posada Carriles. Posada Carriles “escaped” from prison in Venezuela in 1985 before being tried for his role in the shooting down of a Cuban airliner in October 1976. Although his lawyer says Posada was acquitted of this crime, it is not true. Instead, his first trial was declared invalid because it was being held in the wrong venue. As required by the extradition treaty, the Venezuelan Embassy in the US has provided evidence demonstrating “probable cause”. According to US law, Posada Carriles should be extradited to Venezuela, and not to El Salvador, where he’d be protected. Yet we may wonder whether US law matters here. The Washington-based National Security Archive, a non-profit organization dedicated to researching US intervention in other countries, has presented declassified CIA documents showing that the US government knew three months before it happened of plans to bomb a Cuban plane. Posada Carriles has a long history of impunity, and evident US support.

If granted asylum in the US, Posada Carriles will join a community of anti-Cuba terrorists in Miami. In 1990, George Bush Sr., just after condemning terrorism at the United Nations, pardoned Orlando Bosch, also involved in the 1976 plane sabotage, to stop U.S. Attorney Joe Whitley’s efforts to deport him to Cuba for justice. Guillermo Novo Sampol, Gaspar Jiménez Escobedo, and Pedro Ramón, were jailed in Panama for planning to bomb a university hall, filled with students, to kill visiting Cuban President Fidel Castro. They were pardoned by outgoing Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso, also now in Miami, and received in Miami on August 26 2004. George W. Bush is willing to have Posada Carriles there, although, according to Bush, any country harbouring terrorists is also terrorist.

We should care about Venezuela’s request. ...In his book, *Paraguay: La Cárcel Olvidada, El País Exiliado*, Almada presents some of the 5 tons of the dictatorship’s documents, discovered in a hidden vault in Paraguay in 1992. These, as well as declassified CIA and FBI documents, show the collaboration, under Operation Condor, between repressive governments of Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, led by the CIA, of the USA. Almada’s book, and other recent publications, not only demonstrate that various US administrations promoted the most perverse forms of terror in southern South America, but also the impunity with which an elite group of CIA foot soldiers, including Posada Carriles, carried out atrocities.

...We learned about the published evidence about how repressive operations, like Operation Condor, and dirty wars and extermination campaigns in Central America, came about. Researchers of Operation Condor, like Almada, say that when we see how it happened, we can see how it is still happening, particularly the disappearances. Almada was concerned with how individuals became able to inflict such torture upon others. Who made them this way? According to Brecht, we cannot react humanely to such violence, or the expectations it creates in us, if we think it has to be. The impunity, this time, will be denounced. ..., it’s important not just for what we can understand about our hemisphere, but also for what we can aspire to within it.

Prof. Susan Babbitt, Kingston

Swimmers Find Sunken Ship Off Cuba Coast

Associated Press, 4 Aug/05 Newsday Inc.

HAVANA — Two teenagers swimming in seas off eastern Cuba discovered a sunken U.S. ship from the late 19th century, possibly a remnant of the Spanish-American War, a maritime expert said Thursday.

Bronze nails, chains and old-fashioned containers were among artifacts inside the ship, reported Nicasio Vina, director of Santiago de Cuba's Investigative Center of Ecosystems and Biodiversity. The teenagers got in touch with us and we were able to verify the find: a 106 foot boat, the remains of which were uncovered during the recent passing of Hurricane Dennis.

The ship was found in eight feet of water near Siboney beach, about 10 miles south of Santiago, an area used by U.S. troops during the Spanish-American War. Experts have started trying to piece together the boat's exact origins and how it came to be off the coasts of Cuba. Vina said evidence does confirm the boat is American, and that it was likely involved in the war, which ended in 1898 with Spain ceding control of Cuba to the United States instead of to Cuba itself.

Objects from the boat will be displayed in a museum connected to the Investigative Center of Ecosystems and Biodiversity.



George Brown College Student back from Cuba & the Volunteer Brigade.

Cuban Humaitarismism - continued from page 2

Cuba also makes drugs, such as the retroviral drugs to fight AIDS, and vaccines, such as the cholera vaccine, that it developed and made available free of charge or at low prices to Third World countries. It also produced some new cancer-fighting drugs so effective and unique that the US broke its own embargo on trade with Cuba to obtain them.

In addition, Cuba has developed the most effective method known for teaching people to read and write, and is applying it throughout the world in many languages. It has brought 1.4 million Venezuelans to literacy; and the Maori people of New Zealand have also benefited.

"The White House offered Cuba a measly 50,000 dollars (with strings attached) to mitigate the extensive damage of Hurricane Dennis, while Bush through Congress asked for over 37 million dollars for anti-Cuban transmissions [which is illegal under both US and International laws]."

Cuba offered 1,100 doctors with 26.4 tons of medicines/diagnostic kits for the needy citizens of the Gulf states - no strings attached and in spite of the US blockade blocking Cuba access to many necessary medicines. Bush ignores offer.

CCFA TORONTO STATEMENT The Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Toronto is active in promoting friendship, respect and co-operation between Canadian and Cuban peoples. Our activities are directed to providing info/events about Cuba to the public in areas such as culture, health, education, sports, etc., to defend both Cuban and Canadian sovereignty from U.S. interference and to end the illegal U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Amistad Editorial Committee

Editor: Ann Nicholson
Assoc. Editor: Ardis Harriman Prod: Sharon Skup
Distribution: Doug Oyler, Diane Bell
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? Time to Renew ? If you think it's time to renew your membership but you are not sure if it has expired, check your mailing label. The month and year when your membership expires will be indicated. Help us keep the CCFA Toronto going by keeping your membership dues up to date.

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