

CAM/063/0015/15

REPORT ON THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATION OF CUBAN WOMEN

Dear Comrades,

I attended the 3rd Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women which started on the 5th to the 8th of March in Havana, Cuba. The Congress was attended by delegates from the following countries:

Representatives of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), Afghanistan, Angola, Algeria, Argentine, Benin, Bulgaria, Cape Verde Islands, Canada, Columbia, People's Republic of Congo, Korea, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, United States of America, Ethiopia, France, Granada, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guatemala, Guyana, Italy, Honduras, India, Iraq, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Democratic Republic of Sahara, Democratic Republic of Germany, Federal Republic of Germany, Dominican Republic, Rumania, Sao Tome, Syria, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, =Zambia and Vietnam and Tanzania. From the liberation movements there were also delegates.

About 2,000 delegates from the 14 provinces of Cuba representing the 2,5 million members of the Federation of Cuban Women participated in the Congress. Other delegates came from Sweden and Yemen and the Soviet Union.

The Congress was opened by Comrade Wilma Espin de Castro, President of the Federation of Cuban Women, and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and of the Council of Ministers on the morning of March the 5th. Present at the opening and other sessions of the Congress were Comrades President Fidel Castro, Raul Castro, members of the Polit Bureau and of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Comrade Vilma Espin de Castro opened the Congress by reading the Central report of the Federation which was later unanimously adopted by local delegates to the Congress.

The 3rd Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women evaluated the work done by the Federation since its last Congress in 1974 and laid out the tasks facing the new socialist woman of Cuba in the coming five years.

It stated in its final declaration that the Federation of Cuban Women will:

- Work hard to raise the ideological and political level of women;
- Stress the need for both men and women to fully participate in the building and strengthening of socialism in the country;
- Create institutions and services to ease the work of child-care and household responsibilities of the women workers;
- Encourage the full participation of women in the economic life of the country;
- Render all support and assistance to the sanitary brigades and the ministry of public health;
- Involve as many Social Workers to combat crime in the country;
- Fulfill and carry out all tasks set out by the Party;

The Congress stated in conclusion that the respect of the rights of the peoples of the world is one of the fundamental ways of ensuring world peace and international detente. It also severely condemned the sinister manoeuvres and machinations of imperialism and reaction in whipping up tensions in Europe. It denounced the NATO warmongers for continuing with the production of weapons of mass destruction, and for supporting racist regimes in Southern Africa, the dictatorships in Latin America and the Zionist regime in Israel.

The Congress pledged to continue its unequivocal support and assistance to the peoples still under the yoke of racist oppression and fascist terror. It congratulated the peoples of the countries of Angola, Ethiopia, Iran Nicaragua, Granada, Afghanistan and now recently born Zimbabwe who have pierced the shackles of colonialism and fascism since its last meeting in 1974.

The Third Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women was closed on the 8th of March by Comrade President Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban revolution, who spoke about the role of women in the revolution.

Jessica Monare.

20 March, 1980.

MESSAGE DELIVERED BY JESSICA MONARE, DELEGATE TO THE THIRD CONGRESS
OF THE FEDERATION OF CUBAN WOMEN, ON BEHALF OF THE ANC WOMEN'S SECTION
Y

Comrade Fidel Castro,
Comrades of the Central Committee,
Distinguished delegates,
Comrades and Friends,

Allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Cuban women, the Party and people of Cuba for the warm hospitality accorded to me since my arrival to this important Congress: On behalf of the millions of fighting women of South Africa, the Women's Section of the African National Congress and the entire membership of the ANC (SA), I greet you all.

We feel honoured to have been invited to the 3rd Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women. For we have not only learnt from the great storehouse of experience of Cuban women, but we also draw immense inspiration and courage from the tremendous advances made by Cuban women since the overthrowal of the brutal Batista regime in 1959, and the creation of a new social order. The oppressed people of South Africa are following with admiration the giant strides taken by the heroic women of Cuba in building and securing a safe and prosperous path for the future generations. The infinite commitment of the revolutionary people and women of Cuba to the struggle of the oppressed and down-trodden people makes them natural allies of the fighting women and people of South Africa.

Comrades,

The racist minority regime continues to perpetuate a system of inequality and the oppression of the overwhelming majority of the population, the black people. Whereas women the world over are striving to build a new life, we in South Africa are forced to resort to armed struggle as a precondition for the uprooting of the apartheid regime. We are vigorously fighting against forced removals, the separation of families and other brutal acts carried out by the regime of apartheid for the implementation of apartheid. In almost all major political trials and workers' strikes, taking place in South Africa today, our militant women are at the forefront.

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Schreibweise

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- WORLD

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