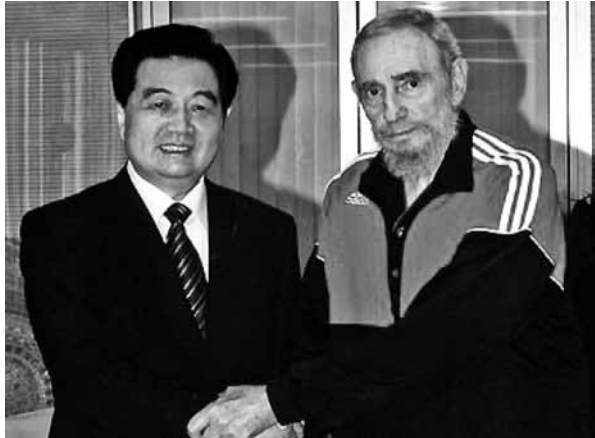


Hu's Pledge to Castro: *China Will Firmly Support Cuba's Socialist Cause*



HAVANA, Nov. 18, 2008 - Chinese President Hu Jintao makes a visit to Fidel Castro (who while stepping down as president due to ill health is still secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba.)

Praising Castro as the leader of the Cuban socialist revolution, Hu hailed the fearless struggle by the heroic Cuban people to safeguard state sovereignty and adhere to the path of socialism.

Hu said that the Chinese people will support the just struggle of the Cuban people in safeguarding state sovereignty and opposing outside interference. In practice, when the covers of diplomatic language are stripped away, this means a pledge to defend socialistic Cuba against U.S. imperialist attack.

The Chinese Communist Party leader insisted that China will firmly support Cuba's socialist cause.

Fidel Castro for his part insisted that China is the most dynamic nation in the world and "no force can stop it from forging ahead." In his article entitled *China's Victory*, Castro has shown his firm support for the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) on such major issues as Taiwan, Tibet and the Olympic Games in Beijing.

According to a report carried by Chinese state media, Hu noted how Fidel Castro showed great concern about the Chinese students studying in Cuba and the progress of a joint ophthalmic hospital. "The Chinese people, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government will for ever remember all these," Hu said.

Castro expressed appreciation of China's relief and reconstruction efforts following the Wenchuan earthquake and other natural disasters. He once again congratulated the PRC on its successful hosting of the Beijing Olympic Games and Paralympics as well as the success of the Shenzhou-7 manned space mission. •