

PASEO Y MALECON, VEDADO, HAVANA, CUBA



HOTEL, CABANA CLUB & CASINO

CABLE: RIVHOTEL

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wrong on this lovely, star-crossed Island... so much bloodshed, cruelty, sorrow, ~~and~~ despair... and, yet, ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ I ~~am~~ ^{believe} now ~~convinced~~ that you are not wholly responsible. External forces were at work, unforeseen though not necessarily inevitable, that placed you in the position you now find yourself. ~~Admittedly~~ You could ^{have} ~~have~~ control ~~the~~ situation had you been able to be more patient, more mature... but, no, I will not go into that here. ~~This letter~~ The purpose of this letter is not a critique of the course of the revolution but a tone poem to you - the man.

Thus, even though I disapprove of much of your revolution as it exists today and wish with all my being that events could have taken a different course, I wish you well, Fidel Castro. I want you to succeed. For I have seen you and heard you and had a glimpse of your heart. ~~I know it is a good heart and I want the man protected for the good that eventually he may bring to bear upon mankind.~~ ^{mankind.}

How rare a person you are, my dearest Fidel. How necessary men like you are to the history of ~~mankind~~. Kant, the great German philosopher, spoke of man's inexorable ^{command} ~~aspiration~~ toward ~~the~~ good. Well, men like you are the necessary ingredients of that historical process ~~xxxx~~ which, hopefully, will lead us to the moment toward which ~~we~~ all ^{men} aspire ~~to~~ the final betterment of the human condition. You lift us up out of our apathy, our ~~despair~~ ^{resignation}, our ~~passion~~ and our mediocrity. And when you are successful ~~xxx~~ you are the men who point the way. I do not honestly know how much you will eventually contribute, but I feel deeply that you must be permitted to play out your role. That much you must be permitted ^{to do.}

(And if, in some small way, I can be privileged to help you play out that role I shall do all in my power to achieve this end. I am going to talk to certain people when I return to the States. I am going to tell them many things. I do not overestimate my influence. But I shall try to help. I ~~may~~ be able to do absolutely nothing. But I shall try and I can do no more than that.)

of good will

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Z - if you are given time enough ^{to} merely to fulfill your potential. (3)

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~~One more thought.~~ I worry for you, my dearest Fidel. I fear for you. I believe - no I am convinced - that you are surrounded by forces far more cynical, far more ruthless than you realize. I want you to be on your guard. But always remember that these forces to the east need you nearly as much as you need them - though ~~not so~~ ^{in our way} essentially - and don't let them forget it, ever. They do not have all the aces. You must be laughing at me now. Of course you should know this - you lived through October, 1962.

Survive, my dearest. Prove to the world that you can be what we who believed in you during the early days thought you were. Make the enlightened progressive community of the world say: "We were right in the first place and wrong in the second." History will absolve you, yes, but only if you survive and ~~then~~ change conditions here. Only if you are able to effectuate the ideals you ~~first~~ articulated when you were fighting in the hills. You can do it. I know you can do it. ~~Great~~ ^{Great} men can move mountains. It can be done ~~only~~ ^{only} you fulfill your potential) and if you are ~~given time enough~~ ^{given time enough} There is a ~~xxxxxxx~~ way back and you must find that road and travel it - even though it will be cumbersome, painful and full of pitfalls. (11-X) realized

And now comes my main point: what you have to offer the world that is meaningful and universally applicable is not some capricious brand of tropical Marxism but your deep sense of justice ^{secret} Your genuine concern for the poor; the helpless; the sick; the ~~xxx~~ oppressed; the defenseless; the deprived; the lost; the despairing. ^{solemn} Your revolution has, without question, betrayed your personal ethics and ideals but the quality is still there. I saw it shining and pure. ~~And your duty, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ your obligation to mankind is to make that quality ever stronger, to make it a reality for your people - all your people, every class and sector.

Let flow in the most untrammelled way the goodness that is your substance and can be your salvation.

You overthrew an evil, vile, base, repugnant regime. That is part of your greater glory. Now (The world scarcely needs that) - (The world scarcely needs that) - (over)

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(4)

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On a personal note, I am disappointed that we could not see one another again before I left. But it was impossible, I know. We met and came together and, I know believe, felt something for one another that could not go further. I am who I am and you are Fidel Castro and for us, at this moment in history, nothing personal could be realized. No matter... our personal desires are not important.

P.S.

Perhaps we shall never see one another again. But I shall treasure with all my heart for as long as I live my trip to Cuba in April of 1963 and my meetings with you, my dearest Fidel.

~~each~~

Lisa Howard

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