

1 October 1996

Bud Day and Carol Thompson
8555 Silver Spur Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004-1219

Dear Bud and Carol:

Hello! We hope this letter finds you well and not feeling too unhappy as summer moves into autumn and then winter! As you can imagine, we continue to have hot (often muggy) weather, although soon we'll be getting into the "cold" period, meaning that we may have to wear socks and a light jacket during Dec and Jan!

Susan's writing goes well, and she is getting ready to go to Toronto for three weeks from 15 Sept to 6 Oct to work with the Canadian-Cuba Friendship Association on the "Solidarity with Cuba Conference" that will be held there later this month. This will be the first of four such conferences being organized during Sept-Oct: after Toronto is Halifax, Winnipeg and Montreal. The conference in Toronto is broadly based and includes (Canadian) government representation. It will take place in Toronto City Hall, with 28 Sept officially declared "Toronto-Cuba Friendship Day" by Mayor Barbara Hall. Workshops will cover such topics as the New Investment Law in Cuba, Women and Cuba, Health and Education in Cuba, the Media and Cuba, etc. There will also be a series of cultural events (musicians, joint Cuban-Canadian art exhibits, continuous showings of Cuban-made videos, etc.) taking place at the same time. The Cuban delegation consists of eight: ICAP (the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People, which has relations with some 3,520 solidarity and friendship organizations - 45 from Canada! - in some 120 countries), CTC (labour), FMC (women), UJC (youth), culture, and economic researchers. If you want to call Susan during this time, the best number to reach her at is (416) 654-7105, or you could fax her at (416) 394-4450 or email c/o LMAKAR@worldy.com (this email is only good while she's in Toronto).

Deiler will continue to work with his new initiative called "Club Caiman". It's mainly about this that we're writing, as it may be of interest to you if you're planning (or know someone else who's planning) to come to Cuba. Enclosed you'll find a flyer that gives you an idea of what it's about, but we'll describe some things about it below anyway...

"Club Caiman" is a club (of sorts) that Deiler has been creating during the past year. It's a wonderful idea which sprang one day into his mind as a possibility for "people-oriented self-employment". He was starting to get informal requests from people visiting Cuba for help arranging transport, setting up informal meetings, identifying tasty and inexpensive informal-sector (private, family-style) restaurants out of the tourist track, arranging home-stays, etc. For example, an Italian woman artist who Deiler met complained that after having spent a month in Cuba, she had still not met anyone from the artistic community. Deiler offered to help her, and set up a little programme for her in Havana to meet people from some of the art museums, visit the lithography and silk screening workshops, and meet some individual artists.

A few weeks later, Deiler looked at Susan and said "Club Caiman" (actually, it had a different name then - "Club Amigo" - but this had to be changed as there are some tourist resorts that use this name). When Susan asked him what he was talking about, Deiler sat down and wrote the enclosed "advert". It's a great idea! And Deiler has wonderful and broad contacts to be able to do exactly what the flyer says, not only here in Havana but also in other parts of Cuba such as the beautiful coastal city of Baracoa (Guantanamo province), etc. More recently, Deiler helped some people from the Canadian Steelworkers Union and a French woman who were visiting Cuba for the first time. He arranged lodging, transport, family-style restaurants, and specialized visits (eg, the cigar factory in Old Havana). "Club Caiman" is not a travel agent, but a way to help visitors to Cuba have a more pleasant, a more human, visit.

Pass on to SAfricans -!

For the moment, Deiler is asking that this flyer be circulated mainly by word of mouth (or hand-to-hand), via friends and friends of friends. "Club Caiman" is not yet registered (although this will be done once it becomes firmly established), and Deiler doesn't want to do any formal "publicity" at the moment.

Those interested in "Club Caiman's" services should send Deiler a fax stating their wishes and their planned date of travel to Cuba. Before they leave Canada (or wherever), Deiler will send back a fax indicating what he's been able to do. Ideally, it would be best for people to contact Deiler at least two weeks before they plan to come to Cuba and indicate their preferences (eg, private lodging or staying in a home with a family, non-smoking lodgings, dietary restrictions, etc.). Deiler would ask for a modest commission for the services of "Club Caiman", the rate depending on what people want him to do. If you know anyone who's coming to Cuba (including yourself!) who might want to use these services, please share the flyer with them.

If you're planning to come to Cuba - even if you're **not** interested in the kinds of services offered by "Club Caiman" - we hope you'll let us know so we can meet! We would also love to hear from you: how you are, what you're doing, how you're feeling.

We send you warm embraces,

Susan and Deiler

Susan Hurlich and Deiler Matos Romero
Calle 36A, #713, Apt 2
e/ Avenida 7 y Calle 42
Miramar, La Habana, Cuba 11300

Tel (537) 339355 or 238390
Fax (537) 332846, Attn: (our name and tel #)
email (for Susan only) hurlich@tinored.cu

*Hello! How are you?
Write! Better yet,
come visit!*

"CLUB CAIMAN"

Are you thinking of visiting Cuba?

Do you want your visit to be interesting and enjoyable?

"CLUB CAIMAN" wants to make its services available for you:

- ▶ visits to points of interest
- ▶ contact with professionals and institutions (e.g., health, education, ecology, music, arts, etc.)
- ▶ contact with other communities in Cuba (e.g., Chinese, Jewish, Arab, Haitian, Jamaican, Afro-Cuban, etc.)
- ▶ translation services
- ▶ private transport services
- ▶ private restaurants specializing in foods you want (e.g., Chinese, Italian, Arab, Cuban, etc.)
- ▶ lodging with families in their homes (rooms, apartments or houses)
- ▶ courses in Cuban and Afro-Cuban dance
- ▶ intensive language training (e.g., Spanish)

Contact us and use our services to make your visit more pleasant. Know Cuba: its' people, its culture, its history. Don't leave without exploring Havana!

"CLUB CAIMAN" invites you.

Everything with reasonable and modest prices acceptable to all.

Contact us! We're at your service.

"CLUB CAIMAN"

Deiler Matos Romero + Susan Hurlich
Calle 36A, No. 713, Aptº 2
e/ Avenida 7 y Calle 42
Miramar-Playa
Ciudad Habana, CUBA 11300

Tel (537) 339355 or 238390

Fax (537) 332846

Ode to Hagis
R. Bonus
Ode to a Man

Hi Phyl -
See next
page. Ted called
us. So glad they
gave you sick leave
not resignation.
Love you! Take
care of you! C+B

"CLUB CAIMAN"

¿Estás pensando visitar a Cuba?

¿Quiere hacer su visita más interesante y agradable?

"CLUB CAIMAN" ofrece sus servicios y los pone a su consideración:

- ▶ visitas a lugares de su interés
- ▶ contactos con profesionales e instituciones (ej: salud, educación, ecología, artes, etc.)
- ▶ contactos con otras comunidades en Cuba (ej: china, judía, árabe, haitiana, jamaicanos, Afro-cubana, etc.)
- ▶ servicios de traductores
- ▶ servicios de transporte privado
- ▶ servicios de restaurantes privados con especialidades en comidas de su preferencia (ej: Chinés, Italiana, Árabe, Cubana, etc.)
- ▶ servicios de alojamiento en pensiones familiares (habitaciones, apartamentos o casas)
- ▶ cursos de danza cubana y afro-cubana
- ▶ cursos intensivos de idioma (ej: español)

Contáctenos y utilice nuestros servicios, haga su visita más agradable. Conozca a Cuba: su pueblo, su cultura, su historia. No se vaya sin hacer un recorrido por la ciudad.

"CLUB CAIMAN" lo invita. Todo con precios razonables y modestos que pueden acordarse por ambas partes.

Contáctenos! Estamos a su servicios.

"CLUB CAIMAN"

Deiler Matos Romero
Calle 36A, No. 713, Aptº 2
e/ Avenida 7 y Calle 42
Miramar-Playa
Ciudad Habana, CUBA 11300

Tel (537) 339355 ó 238390

Fax (537) 332846