



125 promenade Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

CUBA: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE END OF COMMUNISM IN
EASTERN EUROPE

October 7, 1999

October 15, 1999

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Lester B. Pearson Building)
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Friends,

This Fall marks the 10th anniversary of the collapse of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe. In many places there are reflections on the reasons, processes, and results of these changes. It is a good moment to consider "lessons learned" as they might be useful to some future post-communist moment in Cuba.

It could be that there are both, positive and negative lessons to reflect upon from the East European circumstances (i.e., generally successful restructuring of public administration vs. chaotic privatisation). Recognising that Cubans are not East Europeans (and, in fact, Poles are not Romanians) a reflection and contemplation of "how to do" post-communism certainly would be interesting and could be useful.

In this spirit of creative thinking it is a pleasure to invite you to an informal roundtable to share insights and reflect on the circumstances and experiences of these two parts of the world.

The meeting will take place on October 15, 1999, from 9:00AM to 3:30PM, at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive). Lets meet at the front desk and we will escort you to our meeting room. We will reimburse fare and overnight accommodation for those travelling to Ottawa (please, book early and if you can, stay overnight Saturday in order to reduce the airfare).

The objective of our meeting will be sharing insights and knowledge rather than our usual objective of seeking policy recommendations. A report will be drawn and distributed afterward.

I look forward to seeing you on October 15.

Sincerely,

Steven Lee
National Director