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Castro And Obama: A Confrontation On Cuba

by LADB Staff

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Leading candidate for the Democratic Party (DP) nomination for US president, Barack H. Obama gave broad outlines of his Cuba policy in a speech to Cuban-American audiences. Reaction to the speech in the US held few surprises. The left blasted him for embracing "the hard-line program of the most reactionary elements of the Cuban exile community," while the right excoriated him for "appeasement."

It was left to Cuba's Ex-President Fidel Castro to provide the most meticulously detailed analysis of the speech, together with commentary in depth, in the pages of Prensa Latina. The piece was entitled, "The Cynical Politics of the Imperium". Castro painted himself as something of an expert on US presidents, candidates and campaigns, and he noted right off that if he said a kind word about Obama, he'd be doing Obama's adversaries "an enormous favor." Castro said he'd listened to the speech to the Cuban-American National Foundation (CANF), and it was clear from his discourse that he was working with a transcript. He began by quoting Obama: "Throughout my entire life, there has been injustice in Cuba. Never, in my lifetime, have the people of Cuba known freedom. Never, in the lives of two generations of Cubans, have the people of Cuba known democracy. This is the terrible and tragic status quo that we have known for half a century."

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