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Cuba Elected To U.N. Security Council

by John Neagle
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On Oct. 18, Cuba was elected to serve a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council for the first time since the 1959 revolution. The island nation was elected to the Council in 1956 and in 1947. Cuba and four other non-permanent members were elected by the General Assembly in a secret ballot. Cuba, which replaces Brazil, received the highest number of votes of the five 146 out of 156 votes cast. The other new members are the Ivory Coast replacing Algeria, Zaire replacing Senegal, Romania replacing Yugoslavia and Democratic Yemen replacing Nepal. The other non-permanent members are Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia. The five permanent members are the US, Soviet Union, Britain, China, and France. All five hold veto power. The five newly elected non-permanent members begin serving their terms on Jan. 1, 1990. Under the UN charter, non-permanent members must be elected by a two-thirds majority of General Assembly votes. The Security Council is charged with maintaining international peace and security. Although considered binding, its resolutions are often ignored. After the vote was in on Cuba, the Bush administration said it hoped the government in Havana would act constructively on the council, and called on Cuba to respect the Central American peace accords and not to interfere with military or covert aid in regional affairs. (Basic data from AP, Xinhua, 10/18/89)

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