



World Festival of Youth and Students Begins in Ecuador



Quito, December 7 (RHC) - The 18th World Festival of Youth and Students officially gets underway today, Saturday, in Ecuador with a parade of over 10,000 young people at the Bicentennial Park of the capital city, Quito.

The opening ceremony will be attended by President Rafael Correa, members of his cabinet, the mayor of Quito, Augusto Barrera, and numerous foreign dignitaries.

This year's edition is the fourth to be held in Latin America after two previous events in Cuba (1978 and 1997) and in Venezuela (2005).

This time, the youth gathering will be dedicated to the leader of the Ecuadorian Liberal Revolution, Eloy Alfaro, the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and the Ghanaian independence hero, Kwame Nkrumah.

The festival, which runs until next Friday, will have as central topics the Colombian peace negotiations, the situation of Chilean students and the Citizen Revolution in Ecuador.

Participants will also take part in the characteristic anti-Imperialist mock trial to expose and condemn the consequences of imperial activities and policies, such as the case of the U.S. oil company Chevron, which refuses to take responsibility for the massive pollution of large part of the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest.

The economic and political blockade imposed by the government of the United States against



Cuba for over half a century will also be in the dock.