

## **Warning: No Dxpeditio to Cuba !**

by DSWCI-2980 Jaroslav Bohac, the Czech Republic

I am very sorry that I cannot write any DX-report to SWN as I experienced a terrible adventure during my holidays in Cuba:

Our member of parliament Mr. Ivan Pilip (former Minister of Finances) speaks Spanish very well and therefore he was sent together with another man as a mission to Cuba, to support Cubans disidents with their struggle against the Fidel's communist regime. He took some CD's with lists of other Cubans disidents, addresses and some anti-Cuban literature. Despite his political position here, he was dislosed there and taken to a jail. Our chief of Parliament, Mr.Petr Pithart had to come to Cuba and negotiate with Fidel Castro to liberate Mr. Pilip. Finally, after a few days he was successful and Mr. Pilip with his companion could go back home. It was in January and February. It was a big diplomatic affair in the Czech Republic and I am sure that it was also widespread in Cuba as a proof that the Czech Republic joined the "bad capitalist countries" after the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and is no more a friend of Cuba.

Since this, each Czech citizen coming to Cuba is potentially suspicious that he comes to help the anti-Cuban people. All began when I and my wife at the end of November 2001 left the Boeing on the Havana airport and came to the immigration officer. When he found that we come from the Czech Republic, he let all other passengers to pass through the officer's desk and we had to wait for one hour (in the meantime they probably called for an investigation officer-specialist of the secret police).

Then we were allowed to go to the custom's clearance and there we had to open all our luggage and two people examined all (in every detail) what we had inside. Unfortunately, I had my Sony ICF-2010 with me and in fact, this receiver still looks very unusual and impressive - many pushbuttons, digital readout and many other features - perhaps all officers in the airport building came to see this technical wonder (...) and couldn't believe that this device is a receiver only and no transmitter is inside.

They were consulting themselves each other for almost another hour and finally they settled on that "to bring this receiver to the territory of Cuba is not in the Cuba's interest" and I had to leave it there. They gave me a verification that the receiver was deposited there and I got it back when I was on the back way, after 14 days.

So all the lists of MW & FM stations from Florida and the Carribean I could throw to the basket on the airport...

\* \* \* \* \*