



Uva Clavijo: 'The stage of the ivory tower intellectual is gone'
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Intellectuals plan anti-Castro conference

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Uva Clavijo is a petite woman with an imposing voice and absolute confidence in her ideas. The past few weeks have been hectic for the Miami-based Cuban writer as she oversees the publication of another book, cares for her two daughters and begins to organize the Second Congress of Dissident Cuban Intellectuals.

Clavijo is typical of the exiled Cuban intellectuals who have banded together to fight Fidel Castro's Cuba by "taking a stand on the international level and renouncing repression in Cuba."

The Second Congress, to be held Aug. 28-31 at Columbia University's Teacher's College in New York, will bring together writers, painters, composers, economists, sociologists and other "thinking people," Clavijo said. Sponsored by the Committee of Intellectuals for the Freedom of Cuba, the congress is to be a "forum for a free exchange of ideas."

Lectures, discussion groups, exhibitions and a movie about the recent Mariel-to-Key West exodus are part of the program. Sociologist Irving Louis Horowitz will open the Congress. Spanish playwright Fernando Arrabal, French intellectual Fernando Henry Levy and American writer Bernard Malamud also will attend.

With the main theme of "Cuba: Repression and Expansion," the Cuban dissidents hope to alert the rest of the thinking world about the myths Castro perpetuates about Cuba, Clavijo said.

Clavijo, local Congress director and one of

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the panelists, is active in anti-Castro exile activities here. She says it is her duty and responsibility as a writer.

"The stage of the ivory tower intellectual is gone," Clavijo says. "The individual human being has a responsibility and the artist is not exempt from that responsibility. As a matter of fact, the artist, as a thinking person and a sensitive one, has greater responsibility."

Clavijo, 36, says that "everybody should be allowed to create in absolute freedom," which means to her that fighting against the Castro regime is a matter of survival for the artists.

Clavijo has been writing since she was nine. This year she was awarded a Cintas Fellowship and will be publishing her fourth book.

"It is difficult to live in exile," she says. "To create in exile is to create in a vacuum."

The first Congress of Cuban Intellectual Dissidents was conceived in 1978 when Fidel Castro opened the gates to Cuba and emptied part of his political prisons as a result of the dialog. Cuban dissidents were alarmed that the world would regard the communist island with benevolent eyes instead of seeing "the truth about Cuba," Clavijo said.

The intellectuals, who scattered around the

United States, Latin America and Europe since leaving their homeland, decided to get together to draw attention to their cause. They met in April 1979 in Paris because of that city's tradition as a mecca for artistic creativity.

The Paris Congress, which was attended by more than 100 Cubans and intellectuals from other countries, was a success. So the members decided to make the one-shot deal an annual event.

"We felt it was necessary to take a stand on the international level to renounce repression in Cuba," Clavijo said. "The thinking people of all countries are the ones you have to alert first."

Clavijo and her cohorts hope this Congress will divert attention from the recent sealfit to Cuba's totalitarian government.

"The arrival of the new refugees seems to have deviated international attention, and especially that of the United States, from the real problem," she said. "The refugees are treated as if they are victims of a hurricane or an earthquake, without the real understanding that these refugees are the result of the failure of a totalitarian government."

"We insist that the solution is not that the Cubans leave the island, but that all Cubans can return to a free country. In other words, our compatriots should not leave for freedom. We should take them freedom."

Persons interested in attending the Congress in New York should write to SILC, Times Square Station, P.O. Box 660, New York, N.Y., 10036. The registration fee is \$50.