

The San Juan Star - Friday, September 27, 1996

VIEWPOINT

Relating to Cuba

When Hortense touched our lives she vividly reminded us how dear, yet how taken for granted, are the many nuances that make up our daily life. The three days and nights without power and water played havoc with our daily habits. With unscheduled time on our hands we were forced to try "new" family diversions such as talk over a burning candle, play a game of dominos, or visit with neighbors. By the third day, with full power restored, we quickly returned to life-as-usual.

Not for three days but for more than 10,000 days the people on our neighboring island of Cuba have endured and today continue to exist in conditions similar to our three post-Hortense days. Water seldom flows except through leaky roofs, 16 hours of electric power a day is as close to heaven as one can get, except when crunched into public transportation taking you near where you must go. Like their Puerto Rican neighbors, the Cubans "resolve" and make the best of an untouchable situation; unlike Puerto Rico, a final solution to the Cuban "Hortense" storm will take many more three days, or weeks, or months, or. . .

Let us count our blessings and pray that "Hortense" will soon ease its hold on the beleaguered people of Cuba.

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