



# WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

SA March 20, 1997

TO ALL CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES

Dear Brothers:

## CONFIDENTIAL

The *1997 Yearbook* listed the activity of more than 70,000 of our brothers in Cuba. It brought great rejoicing to God's people all over the world. Some brothers and sisters from other lands have asked about visiting the island, and possibly helping the Cuban brothers in some way. (John 13:35) Although some freedom has been allowed, and we were able to publish their field service report this year, we do not have legal recognition in the island. Good judgement and caution still needs to be exercised when visiting our brothers in Cuba. Therefore, in the event publishers from your congregation decide to travel to Cuba, you may provide them certain information. We want to make sure their visits will not cause unnecessary problems for our brothers there.

At this time, the Society is not encouraging brothers from different countries to visit our Cuban brothers. If they want to visit the island as tourists, that is a personal matter. But, if their visit has the main objective to contact our brothers and bring them goods, that is another matter. We need to be discreet and cautious. Our work is still not legalized. Some with good intentions have brought large quantities of literature, medicines, and other goods and have caused some problems for the Country Committee and have had difficulties with the authorities. You will note that although Cuba is listed with the world field report, the *Yearbook* has not provided the address of our Bethel Home there. There is good reason for this as we do not want to create unnecessary publicity at this time.

If brothers decide to visit Cuba, they usually stay in a hotel. Most of the brothers on the island are not in a position to house visitors. Additionally, they *should not* bring large amounts of goods, medicines, and literature. The government authorities do not look with approval on some of these actions. Furthermore, we already have means by which we provide certain needs to the extent possible at this time. We do not want to jeopardize the concessions we have been granted.

If any brother does travel to Cuba, and has the opportunity to associate with the brothers there and visits the Bethel Home, he *should* be judicious upon returning home, when relating how things are done in Cuba, and what our brothers have experienced. It is best to use discretion for now.

**Please do not read this letter to the congregation** but if you know of any brother or sister planning a trip to Cuba, you can share the points mentioned in this letter.

In time Jehovah may open the doors wide in Cuba. Then, we will be able to enjoy to a greater extent the association of our brothers on the island. We continue praying for his will to be done in this matter.

Your brothers,

*Watch Tower B. & J. Society*  
OF BRITAIN