

## **CUBAN OFFICIALS MEET WITH PRESIDENT IKEDA**

Director Eusebio Leal Spengler of the Museum of Havana and other Cuban officials met with SGI President Ikeda on Dec. 11, 1998, at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji. The SGI leader and Mr. Leal, a noted historian and archaeologist, first met during President Ikeda's first visit to the Caribbean nation in June 1996. President Ikeda cited José Martí, the renowned Cuban author and hero of independence, as saying that nothing will happen if we sit around and wait — we have to go out in the world and take action. This spirit, the SGI leader stated, is what led him to visit Cuba two years ago. He voiced his deep gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him then by President Fidel Castro. President Ikeda went on to cite Martí, who evidences Cuba's poetic spirit, as saying: "All that is not compatible with the sanctity of human life is destined to perish. No one can rob people of the wings of poetry that is the cry of the soul."

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