

RELEASE IN
FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
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FYI see below - first time since 1968 that they've allowed privatization in the retail sector.

EXCLUSIVE - Cuba handing beauty, barber shops over to workers

Mon Apr 12, 2010 11:05pm IST

By Marc Frank

HAVANA (Reuters) - Communist Cuba is turning over hundreds of state-run barber shops and beauty salons to employees across the country in what appears to be the start of a long-expected revamping of state retail services by President Raul Castro. The measure marks the first time state-run, retail-level establishments have been handed over to employees since they were nationalized in 1968. Barbers and hair dressers in telephone interviews from a number of cities during the weekend said they would now rent the space where they work and pay taxes instead of receiving a monthly wage. Those employees who do not wish to rent are being offered other jobs or retirement