Yunpeng Ling

English 2

Professor Doucet

Fall 2016

**Extra Credit: film** ***Cuba: An African Odyssey***

On 6 January 2017, I watched the French documentary film ***Cuba: An African Odyssey*** in the AFIBA community entertainment center with my old friends in Crenshaw. As usual, they prepared delicious and healthy food for everyone. The film ***Cuba: An African Odyssey*** is the previously untold story of Cuba’s support for African revolutions. The film was directed by an Egyptian filmmaker and the Ex-Reuters correspondent Jihan El-Tahri. It was originally produced for French television. Beginning with the narrator introduces that right after the Cuba revolution in 1960, the Cuba leader Fidel Castro and more than 30,000 Cubans fight for the independent of African countries. 17 countries gained their independent from the colonist and 30 more countries were fighting for their freedom under the support of Cubans. The film spends most of time on the independent of one of the biggest African country-Congo. The film interviewed some of the key figures of this period who have experienced the event and analyzed the factors from both USSR and USA that influence the independence of the African countries.

For me, the most impressive moment from this film was how Joyfully Fidel was embraced in Angola’s capital, Luanda, his visit to those countries became a 3 weeks triumphal tour. Che and Castro are idolized in Africa because of those fights for the freedom of African brother nations. Ten thousands of Cubans were dead in the grand land of African. They made their ultimate sacrifice and selfless dedication to those African nations who were seeking for independence and dignity. Cuba is not as big as USA or USSR but those Cubans have proved their most noble aspect by giving their hand to the brother nations. Their contribution had been hidden for a long time in western countries until this French documentary film presents people the untold story: a group of people who left their home and fight for another countries’ independence. What a noble deed!

May the Cubans who died in the African battle field rest in peace and the life of Cubans and Africans will be better and better. May the colonialism and war be away from those land. Give my highest respect to those who sacrificed their precious life in the independence war of their mother land.