Rights Alliance in Cuba Appeals To Gorbachev to Back Its Cause

The Soviet Leader Is Due in Havana Tomorrow

By BILL KELLER

HAVANA, March 31—When Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, arrives in Havana today, he will be the first Soviet head of state to visit Cuba since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution and the consecration of Fidel Castro as the island's leader.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is a group of former Soviet satellite states that have declared their independence from the Soviet Union. The council is a de facto successor of the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers, which was dissolved in 1991. The Commonwealth of Independent States is a loose association of former Soviet republics, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, among others. The council meets regularly to discuss issues of mutual concern, including economic cooperation and security.

At the same time, Gorbachev is expected to meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro, who has long been a vocal critic of the United States and its policies in the region. The meeting is likely to focus on issues such as trade, human rights, and the Cuban revolution.

At this critical juncture, the Soviet leader is expected to make a key decision on whether to support Cuba's efforts to rebuild its economy and modernize its society. Gorbachev has been under pressure from some of his political allies to take a tougher stance against Cuba, which is seen as a example of the failures of communism.

However, Gorbachev is also known for his pragmatism and his desire to improve Soviet-Cuban relations. He has been pushing for closer economic ties between the two countries, and has expressed a willingness to work with Cuba on a range of issues.

In the end, the outcome of the meeting will depend on a range of factors, including the position of Gorbachev's political allies, the state of US-Cuban relations, and the broader context of the Cold War. But one thing is certain: The meeting between Gorbachev and Castro will be a key moment in the history of the region, and will be closely watched by people around the world.