

Transcription of Conversation ConversFr01mv.mp3

--(Est-ce que vous avez) bien mangé à Cuba? On¹ pose toujours la question,

--Très très bien. Tout le monde² a trouvé que c'était vraiment, écoute³, exceptionnel.

--Vous étiez là deux semaines?

--Deux semaines, on a été⁴ dans...il y a quatre restaurants, t'sé⁵, là où on était à Cayo Santa Maria...et le restaurant général qui est le...le libre-service, enfin, là où on peut aller tout le temps, toujours ouvert. Pour le petit-déjeuner, ç'a toujours eu lieu là, puis à midi et le soir, ben⁶, on a le choix, il y a une pizzeria, il y a...il y a un restaurant italien, il y a un restaurant cubain, bref, etc. Mais, dans celui-là, écoute⁷, c'est formidable...on avait.. par exemple, on a eu trois fois de la langouste fraîche, langouste, oui, oui, cuite, non, cuite mais alors ensuite ils la faisaient griller, cuite d'abord ensuite ils la faisaient griller (pis)⁸ puis mettaient ce qu'on voulait dessus, mettaient du vin blanc,..de⁹...de l'ail, de..de..du beurre, des fines herbes, tout ce qu'on voulait, on a eu du gigot d'agneau, on a eu du du... de la dinde, on a eu de...on a eu des... tout..il y a eu plusieurs jours d'afi(lée)¹⁰...de suite, on a eu des meules de parmesan. Une grande meule de parmesan pis (puis) là tu pioches là-dedans pis tu prends ce que tu veux. Il y avait un choix de légumes, de fruits..eh..exceptionnel.,han...enfin beaucoup, beaucoup, beaucoup¹¹ de choix de poissons frais. Tous les jours, tous les jours, des calmars frais, et des crevettes...des...des

Technical Notes

1. A first instance of that super-pronoun "on" that can take the place of all the other pronouns. Here it means 'people.' The most common use is actually for 'we.'
2. "Tout le monde" (the whole world) is often used to mean 'everybody.'
3. "Écoute" here is sort of a meaningless conversation marker along the lines of "well." The more formal version "écoutez" is also widely used.
4. Note how the verb être in "on a été" to mean 'we went to.'
5. "t'sé" is a common contraction of "tu sais" 'you know.'
6. "Ben" is a common form of "bien" 'well.'
7. Here is that "écoute" again.
8. "pis" is a common contraction of "puis", 'then.'
9. This form of pause or hesitation after "de" is very common in spoken French and is found often in this transcription.
10. Here the speaker started out to say "d'afilée" and then changed his mind.
11. This triple repetition of "beaucoup" is very common in the spoken language.

An idiomatic translation of FCONV01

--Did you eat well in Cuba? People always ask the question.

--Very,very well. Everybody found that it was really, you know, exceptional.

--You were there for two weeks?

--Two weeks, we were in... there are four restaurants, you know, where we were in Cayo Santa Maria...and the general restaurant that is the...the self-serve, where you can go anytime, always open. Breakfast is always there, then at noon et in the evening, well, you have a choice. There's a pizzeria, there's,,there's an Italian restaurant, there's a Cuban restaurant, so, etc. But, in this we, listen, it's awesome...we had...for example, fresh lobster three times, ya, ya, cooked, no, cooked and then they grilled it, cooked first and then they finished it off on the grill and added whatever we wanted on top, white wine...and..garlic...butter, herbs, anything you wanted, we had a rack of lamb, we had...turkey, we had..everything. A few days in a row we had these wheels of Parmesan cheese. A great big wheel of Parmesan cheese and you could just dig into it and have as much as you wanted. There was a fabulous selection of vegetables, fruit...lots, lots, lots of fresh fish. Every day, every day, fresh calimari, shrimp,...