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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RECRUITMENT, USE, FINANCING AND TRAINING OF MERCENARIES

Letter dated 17 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to call your attention to the facts made public concerning the shooting down, by members of the Sandinist People's Army, of a United States C-123 aircraft in the service of the United States company Southern Air, which is known to have been used by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). This aircraft, which took off from the base at Ilopango, in Salvadorian territory, was on a mission of that Agency, carrying war supplies for the mercenary bands used by Mr. Reagan's Government in his sordid war against Nicaragua.

Following his capture by the valiant Sandinist fighters, Eugene Hasenfus, the United States mercenary employed by the CIA in this action - which violated not only United States laws but also international law and the United Nations Charter - categorically denied the mendacious assertions of officials at the highest level of the United States Administration. He revealed that the Ilopango base, operated by the United States with the approval of the pro-Washington Government of José Napoleón Duarte, is utilized for covert actions against the Nicaraguan revolution with the aid of United States aircraft flown by United States nationals and counter-revolutionaries of Cuban origin carrying official identification cards issued by the Salvadorian régime which identify them as United States advisers in El Salvador.

From the Ilopango base, covert aid has been given to the "contras" throughout all these years, during which United States representatives in the United Nations have been trying to ridicule as "paranoid" the well-founded allegations of the Nicaraguan Government concerning United States interference in its affairs through the organization, financing and direction of mercenary bands and through acts of aggression and sabotage to which the homeland of Sandino is subjected.

The hypocrisy of the present United States Administration and its systematic deception of the United States people and Congress and of international public opinion in every aspect of the undeclared war it is waging against Nicaragua were also demonstrated by its refusal to accept, first of all, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, and then the judgement of the Court on the allegation concerning the mining of Nicaraguan ports by United States CIA agents.

The United States leaders - ranging from President Reagan himself and Vice-President Bush to Secretary of State Shultz - have lied time and again by denying that they were trying to overthrow the Sandinist Government, that they were financing and directing the operations of the "contras", and that United States advisers or agents were participating in actions against Nicaragua.

The revelations of the mercenary Eugene Hasenfus indicate quite the contrary.

But this incident has not only highlighted the untruthful character of the statements of the United States Government; it has also clearly demonstrated that Government's hypocritical attitude when it proclaims itself the champion of the struggle against international terrorism.

Here is the proof: the mercenary Eugene Hasenfus referred in his statements to an individual supposedly named Ramón Medina, who boasted at the Ilopango base that he was a "personal friend" of the United States Vice-President, George Bush, and that, in reality, as was borne out by the testimony of Hasenfus himself, he was none other than the terrorist and mercenary of Cuban origin, Luis Posada Carriles.

Who is Posada Carriles? It is worth making this clear to the Member States.

He is one of the confessed authors of the underhand and criminal sabotage carried out against an aircraft of Cuban Airlines in 1976 over Barbados, causing the death of 73 civilians from Cuba, Guyana and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including the crew and the members of the Cuban juvenile fencing team on a flight from Georgetown to Havana. This occurred at the very time when Mr. Bush, the "friend" of Posada Carriles, was in charge of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Posada Carriles is, furthermore, one of the ring-leaders who took part in bombings carried out during the 1970s against embassies, ships, commercial offices and other facilities of Cuba and the countries which maintained friendly relations with us.

He is the well-known "Inspector Basilio" of Venezuela's Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP), responsible for persecuting, interrogating and torturing members of progressive Venezuelan groups.

Posada also directed the Agency for Commercial and Industrial Investigation, with premises in Caracas, set up with a view to directing the terrorist plan against Cuba from 11 June 1975.

An agent of the CIA since 1960, he was recruited on the strength of his past support for Batista and was employed in Guatemala on tasks relating to the mercenary invasion of Playa Girón in 1961.

Following the abortive invasion of Cuba, Posada became an instructor of counter-revolutionary groups engaged in infiltration and aggression against Cuba under orders from the CIA. In addition, he received training as a ranger in the United States Army and is today a CIA official who is advising the Somozans, in other words, the bands which President Reagan hired in his aggression against Nicaragua.

However, he is also the one who, on the night of 22 August 1985, slipped quietly out of the main gate of the penitentiary of San Juan de los Morros in the state of Guarico, Venezuela, escaping from the high-security cell to which he had been confined after his sentencing for the crime in Barbados. In other words, he is a fugitive from Venezuelan justice.

Fourteen months after that mysterious affair, Posada has reappeared in the service of his United States masters in Salvadorian territory, enjoying the protection of a military base and operating under a new identity now provided by those who had earlier converted him into an out-and-out terrorist, namely, the agents of the CIA.

Posada Carriles' shady "pedigree" was without doubt instrumental in enabling him to "escape" from the Venezuelan gaol and to settle in El Salvador, with the assistance of his ex-chief and bosom friend, George Bush, and the servile agreement of José Napoleón Duarte.

The Posada Carriles case bears witness to the hypocrisy and cynicism of the so-called anti-terrorist intentions of the United States Government, which arrogated to itself the right to launch a military attack against Libya and tried to assassinate its head of State, Muammar Qaddafi, murdering his children and relatives and causing extensive human and material losses.

The insanity which characterizes the policy of the Reagan Government has led it to engage one of the most despicable terrorists, becoming the accomplices of the outlaw, Luis Posada Carriles, the perpetrator of the mass murder in Barbados. This corroborates the link between the CIA and that horrendous crime, a link which President Fidel Castro denounced at the time.

It is individuals of such an ilk that Messrs. George Bush, George Shultz and Elliot Abrams, among other United States leaders, describe as "patriots" and "heroes of the struggle for freedom and democracy", as they did recently in the case of the dead pilots of the C-123 shot down in Nicaragua and the mercenary Hasenfus.

The United Nations should give serious thought to these telling facts.

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The true reasons behind the adventurist, warmongering and quasi-Fascist policy of President Ronald Reagan are his aspiration to world military supremacy, his refusal to put an end to the arms race on earth and not to extend it into outer space, his hatred of the Sandinist revolution and the progress of peoples, his strategic alliance with the Zionist régime of Israel and infamous compromise with the South African racists, and his policy of plunder and subjugation of the countries of the third world through the maintenance of an outdated and unjust international economic order - in short, his assault on the United Nations system and the universal, democratic and egalitarian nature of this Organization.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 42 and 129.

(Signed) Oscar ORAMAS OLIVA
Ambassador

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to the United Nations
