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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 15 January 2021 from the Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to transmit herein a response to the letter that was addressed to you from the Permanent Representative of Cuba dated 16 December 2020 regarding security at the Permanent Mission of Cuba during protests and demonstrations.

The Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security regularly coordinates with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to ensure that any known protests or demonstrations receive adequate NYPD support. Such support can be dictated by the event itself, and other factors, and can range from intermittent presence to a full-time uniformed presence during any event. NYPD support for unannounced demonstrations is fluid in terms of what assets are available to respond if NYPD is alerted. When the Bureau of Diplomatic Security is aware of cases that specifically involve the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, we maintain coordination and contact with the Cuban Mission and in most cases will deploy an agent or agents to monitor the situation. As we have previously communicated to the Permanent Mission of Cuba, in the event that an event raises concerns of imminent danger to the Mission's security or the safety of its personnel or operations, a representative should call 911 to facilitate the immediate response of local authorities. After calling 911, the Mission should contact the Bureau of Diplomatic Security so that the Bureau can follow up with NYPD and stay in contact with the Mission.

Regarding the 30 April shooting incident at the Cuban Embassy, as the United States Mission reported during Committee meetings last fall, municipal and federal authorities responded promptly and took a suspect into custody. Thankfully, no one was injured. The suspect in the 30 April attack has been formally charged in federal court, and prosecution of the suspect proceeds in accordance with applicable United States laws. The Department of State and other United States authorities have already engaged directly with the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba regarding this incident and continue to do so.

The United States takes seriously its duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of a diplomatic mission against any intrusion or damage, or to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission.



I request that you circulate the present letter as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) James B. **Donovan**
Minister Counsellor for Host Country Affairs
United States Mission to the United Nations
