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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Letter dated 23 April 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba entitled “The Cuban revolution reiterates its firm determination to face the escalation in aggression by the United States”, issued in Havana on 17 April 2019 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present Declaration be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43.

(Signed) Ana Silvia **Rodríguez Abascal**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires



**Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Spanish]

**Statement by the Revolutionary Government: The Cuban
revolution reiterates its firm determination to face the escalation
in aggression by the United States**

Today, April 17, marks another anniversary of the commencement of the military aggression at Playa Girón (the Bay of Pigs) in 1961. Within just 72 hours, the decisive response of the Cuban people in defence of the revolution and socialism resulted in the first military defeat of imperialism in the Americas.

Oddly, that is the date the current Government of the United States has chosen to announce the adoption of new aggressive measures against Cuba and to reinforce the application of the Monroe Doctrine.

The Revolutionary Government rejects in the strongest terms the decision to permit United States courts to take action against Cuban and foreign entities that fall outside the jurisdiction of the United States, and to increase restrictions on entry into the United States for executives of companies with legitimate investments in nationalized properties in Cuba, and their relatives. These are actions envisaged in the Helms-Burton Act that have long been rejected by the international community and have been repudiated by the Cuban nation since their enactment and application in 1996. Their fundamental purpose is to impose colonial rule over our country.

Cuba also repudiates the decision to reimpose limits on remittances which Cubans residing in the United States may send to their relatives and friends, further restrict the travel of United States citizens to Cuba and apply additional financial sanctions.

It strongly rejects the allegations that there have been attacks against United States diplomats in Cuba. As usual, the United States is attempting to justify its actions through lies and blackmail.

On 10 April 2019, General Raúl Castro said: "They blame Cuba for every evil, using lies as they were used in the worst kind of Hitlerian propaganda."

The Government of the United States is resorting to slander to cover up and justify the clear failure of its sinister move to bring about a coup d'état by designating, from Washington, a usurper "president" for Venezuela.

It accuses Cuba of being responsible for the determination and steadfastness shown by the Bolivarian and Chavista Government of Venezuela, the people of that country and the civilian-military union that is defending the nation's sovereignty of the nation. Its claim that Cuba has thousands of troops and security forces in Venezuela who are influencing and determining the course of events in that sister country is a brazen lie.

The United States has the effrontery to blame Cuba for the economic and social situation besetting Venezuela after years of brutal economic sanctions designed and applied by the United States and a number of its allies precisely in order to suffocate the Venezuelan economy and cause the population to suffer.

Washington has gone to the extreme of putting pressure on Governments of third countries to attempt to persuade Cuba to withdraw this alleged – and implausible –

military and security assistance, and even to stop offering its support and solidarity to Venezuela.

The current Government of the United States is known, within the United States and internationally, for its unscrupulous tendency to use lies as a tool in its domestic affairs and foreign policy. This habit is in line with old imperialist practices.

Still fresh in our minds are the images of President George W. Bush, with the support of the current National Security Advisor, John Bolton, lying shamelessly about the supposed existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq as a pretext for invading that country.

History also records the blowing-up of the battleship USS Maine in Havana and the United States-provoked Gulf of Tonkin incident, which served as pretexts for unleashing predatory wars against Cuba and Viet Nam.

We should not forget that the United States used fake Cuban insignia painted on the aeroplanes that carried out air strikes ahead of the aggression at Playa Girón to hide the fact that the aircraft actually belonged to the United States.

It must be made clear that the slander by the United States is based on a complete and deliberate lie. The country's intelligence services possess more than enough evidence – surely more than any other State has – to be certain that Cuba has no troops in Venezuela and is not involved in military or security operations there, notwithstanding the fact that two independent countries have a sovereign right to determine how they will cooperate on defence matters. It is not for the United States to question that right.

The United States itself has more than 250,000 soldiers at 800 overseas military bases, including some in our hemisphere.

Its Government is also aware that, as Cuba has stated publicly on numerous occasions and as is recognized by the international community, the nearly 20,000 Cubans in Venezuela, over 60 per cent of whom are women, are doing the same thing that some 11,000 Cuban professionals are doing in another 83 countries: contributing to the provision of basic social services, primarily in the health-care sector.

It must be made absolutely clear that the steadfast solidarity of Cuba with our sister republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, is our right as a sovereign State. It is also a duty arising from the tradition and inalienable principles of the foreign policy of the Cuban revolution.

No threat of reprisals against Cuba, no ultimatum and no blackmail by the current Government of the United States will alter the internationalist conduct of the Cuban nation, despite the devastating human and economic damage that the genocidal embargo is doing to our people.

It is worth remembering that mafioso-like threats and ultimatums have been used in the past, when Cuba was exerting internationalist efforts in support of liberation movements in Africa and the United States was backing the shameful regime of apartheid. The United States wanted Cuba to abandon its commitments of solidarity with the peoples of Africa in exchange for a promised pardon, as if the revolution needed to be forgiven by the imperialists.

Cuba rejected blackmail then, as it rejects it now, with the utmost disdain.

On 10 April 2019, General Raúl Castro recalled that “in the 60 years that we have faced aggression and threats, we Cubans have demonstrated an iron will to resist and overcome the most difficult of circumstances. Despite its immense power, imperialism cannot crush the dignity of a united people who are proud of their history and the freedom they have gained through so much sacrifice.”

The Government of Cuba calls on all members of the international community and citizens of the United States to stop the irrational escalation and policy of hostility and aggression of Donald Trump's Government. The States Members of the United Nations are fully justified in calling year after year, almost unanimously, for an end to this economic war. The peoples and Governments of our region must see to it that the principles set out in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace prevail, for the benefit of all.

On 13 April 2019, the President of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, said the following: "Cuba continues to trust in its strength and dignity, and also in the strength and dignity of other sovereign and independent nations. But it also continues to believe in the people of the United States, the land of Lincoln, who are ashamed of those who act outside universal law in the name of their entire nation."

Once again, Cuba repudiates lies and threats, and reiterates that its sovereignty, independence and commitment to the cause of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean are not negotiable.

Two days before the commemoration of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the victory at Playa Girón, a historic moment for the whole country, when mercenary forces driven by imperialism tasted the dust of defeat, the Cuban revolution reiterates its firm determination to face and prevail against the escalation in aggression by the United States.

Havana, 17 April 2019
