



General Assembly

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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 16 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I am writing to inform you that since 24 November, a number of demonstrations have taken place in front of the premises of the Permanent Mission of Cuba, which have intensified over time.

From 24 November to the time of writing, seven demonstrations have been carried out, on the following dates: 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29 November and 3 and 10 December. These protests have increased in their levels of hostility. The racket, noise and provocations resulting from them have disturbed the tranquillity of the Mission, hindering the working environment and endangering the safety of its members.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba transmitted two notes verbales to the United States Mission regarding the above-mentioned events, whose promoters failed to comply with the relevant regulations established in New York City for carrying out such activities, including by pasting posters on the main facade of the building and adjacent trees, writing offensive messages on the main doors, attempting to force their entrance into the Mission and slipping propaganda under the gates.

In the above-mentioned notes verbales, it was further reported that on several occasions, the protesters stood by the entrance and shouted through the main door of the building, disrupting the access to the property, in an act that could have led to a violation of the immunity of the Mission and to a physical attack against its members. They also yelled insults over the intercom at the entrance and blocked the passage of passers-by on the sidewalk.

We highlight the fact that the authorities in charge of the diplomatic security of the Permanent Missions have not always provided due protection to the Cuban Mission, despite having been informed in a timely manner, even prior to the occurrence of these events. On 10 December, two police officers from the New York Police Department stood in front of the entrance door of the Mission right until the demonstrators arrived, at which time they moved back to their car. Despite the fact that the protesters placed a rope that blocked the entrance to the Mission, they did not intervene.

Once again, the Mission would like to sound a warning that the tolerance for such acts, the lack of appropriate response from the United States authorities and,



consequently, the impunity with which these individuals operate could encourage a dangerous escalation of these acts that could lead to terrorist attacks against the Permanent Mission of Cuba or any other act that may pose a threat to the security of the Mission and the safety of its personnel.

In this context, we also recall that the United States Mission has the obligation, under article 22 (2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, “to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity”.

We would like to recall that in the past, these kinds of demonstrations have had serious connotations owing to their violent nature, even causing physical injuries to Cuban diplomats. We also recall that during this same year of 2020, the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C. was attacked with an assault rifle by a terrorist of Cuban origin.

Both the attack against the Embassy in Washington and the recent events directed against the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York are a direct result of the aggressive and hateful policy and rhetoric of the United States government against Cuba and the permanent incitement to violence by United States politicians and anti-Cuban extremist groups that have turned these kinds of attacks into a way of life.

We express our strongest rejection of these acts and the impunity with which the aforementioned individuals have perpetrated offences and threats against Cuban officials, as well as damage to the premises. In view of the above, the Mission has requested the United States Mission to take all necessary measures to ensure adequate protection for the Permanent Mission of Cuba and its personnel.

Finally, I kindly request your good offices so that this letter may be circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, as well as to include this issue as part of the agenda of its first meeting of the seventy-fifth session.

(Signed) Pedro Luis **Pedroso Cuesta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
