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Press Release SG/1359
27 October 1962

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT

TO PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO AND HIS REPLY

26 October 1962

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I would be grateful if the enclosed message could urgently be transmitted to His Excellency Senor Fidel Castro.

Sincerely yours,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

H.E. Sr. Mario Garcia-Inchaustegui
Permanent Representative of Cuba to
the United Nations

Message to His Excellency Senor Fidel Castro,
Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba

I hope that Ambassador Garcia-Inchaustegui has conveyed to Your Excellency the appeal that I addressed to you and to President Dorticos through him in the course of the statement I made before the Security Council on 24 October. I then recalled the following words of President Dorticos, uttered from the rostrum of the General Assembly on 8 October:

"Were the United States able to give us proof, by word and deed, that it would not carry out aggression against our country, then, we declare solemnly before you here and now, our weapons would be unnecessary and our army redundant."

I added that I believed it would also contribute greatly to finding a way out of the present impasse "if the construction and development of major military facilities and installations in Cuba could be suspended during the period of negotiations."

As Ambassador Garcia may have reported to you I have received fairly encouraging responses to my appeal for negotiations and a peaceful solution of the problem from the President of the United States and from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Your Excellency can make a significant contribution to

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the peace of the world at this present critical juncture by directing that the construction and development of major military facilities and installations in Cuba, and especially installations designed to launch medium range and intermediate range ballistic missiles, be suspended during the period of negotiations which are now under way.

It would encourage me greatly to have an affirmative reply to this appeal very urgently.

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

27 October 1962

Letter from Prime Minister Castro to
Acting Secretary-General U Thant

Translation from the Spanish

Your Excellency,

On the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba I have the honour to transmit to you the following message:

"Your Excellency,

"I have received your message dated 26 October, and express my appreciation of your noble concern.

"Cuba is prepared to discuss as fully as may be necessary, its differences with the United States and to do everything in its power, in co-operation with the United Nations, to resolve the present crisis. However, it flatly rejects the violation of the sovereignty of our country involved in the naval blockage, an act of force and war committed by the United States against Cuba. In addition, it flatly rejects the presumption of the United States to determine what actions we are entitled to take within our country, what kind of arms we consider appropriate for our defence, what relations we are to have with the USSR, and what international policy steps we are entitled to take, within the rules and laws governing relations between the peoples of the world and the principles governing the United Nations, in order to guarantee our own security and sovereignty.

"Cuba is victimizing no-one; it has violated no international law; on the contrary, it is the victim of the aggressive acts of the United States, such as the naval blockade, and its rights have been outraged.

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"The Revolutionary Government of Cuba would be prepared to accept the compromises that you request as efforts in favour of peace, provided that at the same time, while negotiations are in progress, the United States Government desists from threats and aggressive actions against Cuba, including the naval blockade of our country.

"At the same time I express to you our willingness to consider attentively any new suggestion you may put forward; furthermore, should you consider it useful to the cause of peace, our Government would be glad to receive you in our country, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to direct discussions on the present crisis, prompted by our common purpose of freeing mankind from the dangers of war.

"Unreserved respect for the sovereignty of Cuba is the essential prerequisite if Cuba is to contribute with the greatest sincerity and goodwill, grudging no step towards the solution of the present problem, and joining forces with all those peoples who are struggling to save peace at this dramatic moment in the life of mankind; Cuba can do whatever is asked of it, except undertake to be a victim and to renounce the rights which belong to every sovereign State.

"I reiterate the assurances of my highest consideration.

"Major Fidel Castro Ruz

"Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba."

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed)

Dr. Mario Garcia Inchaustegui

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations

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