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LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF CUBA
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the following letter from the Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz.

"Havana, 10 February 1966

"U Thant
Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Sir,

"I am addressing you in order to give the reply it deserves to the letter sent to the President of the Security Council by the representatives of the Latin American Governments which, with the exception of Mexico, at the instigation of the interventionist and imperialist Government of the United States, 'denounced' before that body the decisions reached at the First Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which was held at Havana from 3 to 12 January 1966. At the same time I request you to have this reply circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

"It is incredible that these Governments should be so cynical as to accuse Cuba and the Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America of interventionism, because the Governments, in whose name the letter was signed, are precisely the most servile henchmen of Yankee imperialism in Latin America. Most of them unhesitatingly supported the criminal intervention of Yankee troops in the territory of the Dominican Republic and only a few of them, as an exception, voiced a mild and hypocritical protest. With the cowardly and shameful complicity of the same Governments, the Yankee military occupation of this country and the oppression of this brother people of Latin America are continuing; almost every day the invading troops fire on the population and murder defenceless men and women. Some of these Governments, for example Brazil, Honduras and Costa Rica, are participating directly in the military occupation. It is the height of cynicism that Mr. García-Godoy, that base and unpatriotic puppet, should sign this declaration and, what is more, do so in the name of a country which is occupied and oppressed by Yankee troops and other mercenary foreign soldiers.

"Actually all these Governments are accessories to the subordination, domination and exploitation of their own countries by United States imperialism, which is in control of their armed forces, banks and trade - in short, the economy of each and every one of them. Yankee imperialism dictates their foreign policy and brazenly reserves the right of military occupation, as in the Dominican Republic, whenever it considers this necessary for its purposes of exploitation.

"In collusion with Governments representing the same interests, the United States has carried out its open policy of intervention on this continent.

"Thus, in 1954, it used mercenary forces from bases set up in neighbouring countries to overthrow the constitutional and lawful Government of Guatemala, in order to subject that country once again to the most iniquitous exploitation; in 1961, it organized, financed and directed, with the participation of the Governments of Guatemala and Nicaragua, the mercenary invasion of Playa Girón; in 1964, it engineered the massacre of the Panamanian people who were claiming sovereignty over the Canal area; and in 1965, in defiance of world protests and indignation, it invaded and occupied the territory of the Dominican Republic.

"The Latin American peoples' awareness of their militant solidarity has grown, developed and deepened in the struggles against Yankee imperialist interventions, against the Yankee occupation and colonization of Puerto Rico, against the Yankee seizure of a part of the territory of Panama in 1903, against the second Yankee intervention in Cuba in 1906, against the Yankee intervention in Mexico in 1914 and 1917, against the Yankee intervention in Haiti in 1915, against the Yankee intervention in the Dominican Republic in 1915, against the Yankee intervention in Nicaragua in 1910 and 1925 and against the previously mentioned Yankee aggressions in Guatemala and Cuba. This feeling of solidarity is gathering extraordinary strength in view of the military occupation of the Dominican Republic and the threat that intervention may be carried out in any of the nations of Latin America.

"This threat was clearly expressed in the recent decision of the House of Representatives of the United States which had the impudence to declare that the Government of that country would have to intervene, whenever it considered it advisable, in any territory of this continent.

"The Yankee imperialists have pursued their interventionist policy not only in Latin America, but also in Africa, Asia and the rest of the world.

"The Yankee intervention in the Congo, carried out under the flag of the United Nations, is a good example of this.

"The present Yankee intervention against the people of South Viet-Nam and the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam show how the Pentagon circles and United States monopolies carry their interventionist policy to every corner of the earth and threaten the peace of the world.

"The so-called Governments of Latin American countries, which, alleging that the decisions of the Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America constitute a threat to peace, signed this letter to the President of the Security Council, are turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to the monstrous reality of what imperialism is doing in the world today.

"The peoples of the Latin American countries, whom these Governments claim to represent, are being mercilessly plundered by United States monopolies.

"These people have a right to sweep out, and sooner or later will sweep out, these Governments which have betrayed them and are serving foreign interests in their own countries. They will do so by the most violent revolutionary action, because the imperialist exploitation and oppression of these peoples are steadily increasing with the use of force, violence and weapons and they are left with no other possible alternative.

"To proclaim the right of these peoples who are oppressed and exploited by the imperialists with the complicity, in each country, of the reactionary classes - the privileged and completely minority interests which these Governments represent - is not an act of intervention. It is precisely a struggle against intervention.

"The support of independence must not be confused with intervention.

"The revolutionary representatives of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who met at Havana did indeed decide to intensify the struggle against intervention and to assist the peoples fighting for liberty and independence. In addition, they emphasized the duty of States and progressive Governments to support peoples who are struggling against interventionist and aggressive imperialism.

"There are well-known historical and political precedents for the assistance which is being offered to the peoples fighting for independence.

"No one would think of accusing the French revolutionaries, who in the eighteenth century helped the people of North America to gain their independence from British colonial rule, of having been interventionists. The peoples of France, the United States and the entire world recognized the undeniable merit of what those brave men did in fighting on American soil to win independence for the thirteen colonies.

"The militant, revolutionary solidarity of the peoples of Latin America assumed a very active form at the time of the struggle for liberation carried on by Bolívar, San Martín and Sucre. The peoples of Latin America gratefully remember that solidarity. No one would think of describing the Latin American liberation movement of the last century as an act of intervention.

"In 1826, Simón Bolívar summoned the peoples of the Americas to the Panama Conference to discuss the most appropriate means of completing the liberation of the continent from Spanish colonial oppression.

"By the standards of Yankee imperialism and of the wretched lackeys who signed the aforementioned letter, that Conference could be regarded as violating the sovereignty of peoples and as frankly interventionist.

"Let imperialist aggression, oppression and intervention cease. Let the United States leave Dominican territory; let it withdraw its troops from South-East Asia and Viet-Nam; let it put a halt to the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam; let it turn over to the Panamanian people the territory wrongfully taken from it in the Canal Zone; let it stop exploiting the impoverished peoples of the Americas and other parts of the world; let it return the territory occupied by its foreign military bases, including Guantánamo; let it stop its conspiracy in Asia, Africa and Latin America; in short, let the system of imperialist rule come to an end. That is what is demanded by the peoples and by those who legitimately represent their interests.

"The Revolutionary Government of Cuba fully adheres to the decisions adopted by the First Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"We are well aware that the hidden purpose of the cynical statements by the self-styled representatives of eighteen Latin American peoples is to justify future acts of intervention by United States troops in other Latin American countries and, in particular, to prepare the way for aggression against Cuba when the wave of revolution rises over this oppressed and exploited continent and when the tiny minority of monopolists that rules the United States - those who are responsible for the present tensions in the world and are guilty of acts of aggression and intervention - sees the empire which upholds their interests crumbling to dust at their feet.

"However, Cuba is not defended by a heroic but unarmed people like that of the Dominican Republic, and the day on which this imperialist Power and its accomplices dare to lay their rapacious hands on our fatherland will indeed be a day for the United Nations to long for peace, because the resistance they encounter will shake the world.

"Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Fidel CASTRO RUZ
Prime Minister of the Revolutionary
Government of Cuba

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Juan JUARBE Y JUARBE
Counsellor
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

