



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 2013
English
Original: Russian

Sixty-eighth session

Agenda item 40

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

Letter dated 29 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a decision adopted on 22 October 2013 by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning an Appeal from the State Duma to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the commercial, economic and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba (see annex I) and the text of the above-mentioned Appeal (see annex II).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 40.

(Signed) V. Churkin



Annex I to the letter dated 29 November 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Decision of the State Duma concerning an Appeal from the State Duma to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the commercial, economic and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation decides:

1. To adopt an Appeal from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the commercial, economic and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.
2. To transmit this decision and the above-mentioned Appeal to the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, the United Nations General Assembly, the Interparliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Interparliamentary Assembly of members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba and the United States Congress.
3. To transmit this decision and the Appeal to the Parliamentary Gazette for official publication.
4. This decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

S. E. Naryshkin
President of the State Duma of the
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow
22 October 2013

**Annex II to the letter dated 29 November 2013 from the
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the
Russian Federation**

**Appeal from the State Duma to the United Nations
General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the
United Nations and international parliamentary organizations
on the necessity of ending the commercial, economic and financial
embargo against the Republic of Cuba**

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation reaffirms its position set out in the statements of 14 October 1994 on the ending of the economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, of 17 May 1995 in connection with the consideration in the United States Congress of draft legislation tightening the economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, of 6 March 1996 on the deterioration of American-Cuban relations, of 22 March 1996 in connection with the adoption of the Helms-Burton Act and of 1 October 1999 in connection with the continuing economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, and in the appeals of 3 November 2006 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations in connection with the continuing economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, of 18 October 2007 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations in connection with the necessity of ending the economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, of 17 October 2008 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations in connection with the necessity of ending the economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba and assistance to the Republic of Cuba in dealing with the destructive effects of a natural disaster, of 23 October 2009 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic embargo against the Republic of Cuba, of 22 October 2010 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and of 20 November 2012 to the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

Striking proof of the desire of the peoples of the world for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba was once again provided by the adoption on 13 November 2012 by an absolute majority of votes in the General Assembly of the resolution entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, which like the numerous previous resolutions of the General Assembly on this question has gone unheeded by Washington.

The economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba, which has now lasted for over 50 years, is a glaring example of undisguised political blackmail and pressure on a sovereign State and a cold war vestige that is

shameful in the twenty-first century and adversely affects international relations in the world in general and in the Caribbean region in particular.

An overwhelming number of States is opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against a small island State by a powerful country claiming exclusivity and leadership in today's world. This policy pursued by the United States of America towards a neighbouring independent State is totally at variance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and is contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The unilateral embargo against the Republic of Cuba imposed by the United States of America, bypassing the United Nations, is not only an impediment to the Cuba economy but also an infringement of the rights and legitimate interests of Cuban citizens living in other States and of nationals of third States.

The State Duma welcomes the initiatives taken by individual members of the United States Congress and of the American public to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and remove Cuba from the list of States sponsoring terrorism and normalize Cuban-American relations as soon as possible. Unfortunately, some American Cubans of radical tendencies are trying to exacerbate Cuba's international isolation and to intensify the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba at the legislative level.

The State Duma urges the United States administration to stop obstructing the Cuban people's legitimate right to free trade, free merchant shipping and mutually advantageous economic, commercial and financial relations with all partner States and to stop opposing the world community, which is insistently demanding the speedy ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba and respect for the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, particularly the principles of sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

The deputies in the State Duma renew their support for the people of friendly Cuba — a State which for over half a century has in difficult conditions selflessly defended its sovereignty and inalienable right to choose its own development model. They demand the speedy release of the Cuban patriot members of the "Cuban Five", who for fifteen years now have been languishing in American prisons.

The State Duma commends the policy pursued by the leadership of the Republic of Cuba of modernizing the national economy and improving the State administration of the country's economy, in order to raise Cubans' standard of living. It believes that ending the economic, commercial and financial sanctions imposed by the United States of America on Cuba and the normalization of Cuban-American relations will promote the success of that policy.

The State Duma again urges the United States Congress to turn the page of a half century of opposition to the Republic of Cuba and to consider repealing the Helms-Burton Act and other legislation preventing the development of commercial and economic cooperation with Cuba, in accordance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, and thus to usher in new, civilized, good-neighbourly and mutually advantageous relations between Cuba and the United States.

The State Duma appeals to the United Nations General Assembly, the parliaments of States Members of the United Nations and international parliamentary organizations to urge the United States to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Republic of Cuba.

S. E. Naryshkin

President of the State Duma of the
Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Moscow
22 October 2013
