



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/21053
26 December 1989
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 26 DECEMBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the situation with regard to our Embassy in Panama remains the same as we stated in our letter yesterday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba last night issued a statement, which I attach.

Since the guarantees and assurances given by the United States authorities are not matched by the attitude of the military forces surrounding the residence of the Cuban Ambassador, and in view of the gravity of the situation, in which 25 children and 30 women are being held as virtual hostages in our residence, my Government requests an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the matter and find an immediate solution.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed urgently to all members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Oscar ORAMAS OLIVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Since the morning hours of 24 December, combat vehicles and troops of the United States Armed Forces which invaded Panama have been in position surrounding the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Panama City, carrying out various acts of harassment and psychological warfare and preventing the free movement of Cuban diplomatic staff, including the Ambassador, Comrade Lázaro Mora.

At 10.30 a.m. today, Major Ackson, Second Battalion of the 504th Regiment of the 82nd Air Transport Division, contradicting assurances given by officials of the State Department in Washington and by the Head of the United States Interests Section in Havana, said in reply to Comrade Luis Delfín Pérez, Counsellor at the Cuban Embassy in Panama City, that as the leader of the forces surrounding the residence he had the task of preventing the entry and exit of staff, continuing to encircle the residence and arresting any Cuban diplomat, regardless of rank, who might attempt to leave.

At 6 p.m., Counsellor Luis Delfín Pérez went to the door of the residence and requested to speak to the leader of the detachment. The United States troops pointed their weapons at the Counsellor and a United States officer repeated that his instructions were to arrest any Cuban attempting to leave the residence.

In addition, at various times the troops surrounding the residence donned gas masks, used special vehicles to maintain constant watch, even over the fence around the grounds of the residence, blocked the closed-circuit television cameras used for surveillance of the entrance of the residence and carried out intimidating actions.

As stated earlier to the competent United States authorities, among others inside the residence there is a group of women and children whose personal safety is threatened, since they are denied food and medicine and since free access to the building is not permitted.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that the handful of Cubans who are also inside the building will not permit a violation with impunity of the extraterritoriality of the residence of the Cuban Ambassador.

The dangerous situation created by the occupation forces of the United States may lead to a grievous incident for which full responsibility will rest with the authorities in Washington and the commanders of the said forces.

On behalf of the Government of Cuba, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounces the grave, illegal action taken by the United States forces in Panama against the Cuban diplomatic staff and their families in that country, demands that the international rules governing relations with embassies and diplomatic staff even in time of war be respected, and that, consequently, the hostile actions against the residence of the Cuban Ambassador in Panama City cease immediately.

Since it is impossible to receive a serious and responsible reply from the United States authorities, the Government of Cuba has decided to bring this situation to the attention of the Security Council.

Havana, 25 December 1989

