



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1989 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

I enclose a letter addressed to you by Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, concerning the aggression perpetrated by the United States against the people of Panama.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Oscar ORAMAS OLIVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 20 December 1989 from the President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my unavoidable duty to write to you in view of the brutal and cunning act of aggression to which the people and Government of Panama have been subjected by the Government and armed forces of the United States of America.

It is not the first time that a small American nation has been faced with interventionism on the part of the United States Government: Santo Domingo, Grenada and Nicaragua are recent casualties in a continent that, since the end of the last century, has been trampled on repeatedly by the marine infantry and soldiery of imperialism, which today do not hesitate to invade the brother Republic of Panama with the declared aim of toppling its Government and imposing a puppet régime amenable to the continued occupation of the Panama Canal beyond the time-limit set in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, this being the true and unspeakable reason for the aggression.

The President of the United States is attempting to justify the gross violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations by invoking Article 51 of the Charter, no less, which recognizes that every State has the "right of self-defence". Such disdain for the intelligence of Member States is on a par with the shamelessness of those who, themselves guilty of the crime of aggression, try to pass themselves off as victims.

Today, the noble land which Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, chose as headquarters for the Amphictyonic Congress more than 100 years ago is awash with the blood of hundreds of Panamanian patriots. There can be no more opportune moment than this to recall his historic words when the United States is "plaguing with misery" an American people "on behalf of democracy and freedom". The children of that people, with their steadfast resistance, are, and shall always be, considered the worthy heirs of the spirit of the Liberator.

Subjected by imperialism to pressure, harassment and aggression for 30 years, the Cuban people is whole-heartedly on the side of the Panamanian people, which is struggling for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We know that the only peace and security awaiting our peoples are the peace and security which we are capable of attaining with our own heroism.

Accordingly, the only path to victory is that of the resistance currently being put up in Panama against the invaders.

The Security Council is meeting to consider the aggression by the United States, one of its permanent members - and hence a member with a special responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security - against a country with barely 2.5 million inhabitants. If a permanent member of the Council, the principal leader of the Atlantic Alliance, on the clumsy pretext of defending

democracy and protecting itself against a trumped-up and inexistent act of aggression, can trample on the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of another State with impunity, without the Council's preventing it from doing so and without the Council's calling for the aggression to cease and the unconditional withdrawal of the invaders, then the statements of Council members about their commitment to the principles of international law and the ideals of the founders of the United Nations will stand for little.

Cuba, which from next year onwards will, as a non-permanent member, share the responsibilities of this lofty body, feels bound to express now that its people and Government cannot look upon the Charter of the United Nations simply as a piece of paper, a rhetorical reference which the powerful violate at their whim, mocking the right of peoples and undermining their dignity, sovereignty and independence.

We are relying on the Council, its President and the Secretary-General of the Organization to take the decisive action called for by the peoples of the United Nations on behalf of a Panamanian people under assault which is defending with fortitude its right to decide freely its destiny.

(Signed) Fidel CASTRO RUZ
President of the Council of State
and of the Government of the
Republic of Cuba

