

CONVOCACTION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNDER  
ARTICLE 109 OF THE CHARTER

The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary-General by the Cuban Embassy in Washington:

1 August 1946

Sir,

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of today's date, which was worded as follows:

"YOUR SERIAL 311 RECEIVED STOP PLEASE INCLUDE IN THE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO BE HELD ON THE 23RD OF COMING SEPTEMBER A CONVOCATORY FOR A GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 109 OF THE CHARTER IN ORDER TO MODIFY PARAGRAPH THIRD OF ARTICLE 27 OF THE CHARTER TO ELIMINATE THE SO CALLED VETO PRIVILEGE."

The Delegation of Cuba to the San Francisco Conference on the United Nations opposed and voted against including in the Charter the voting system laid down in Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter, generally known as the veto privilege, for the following reasons among others:

- a) because this privilege granted to the Permanent Members of the Security Council is contrary to the principle of the sovereign equality of all the Members of the Organization, proclaimed in Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.
- b) because the veto privilege enables the Permanent Members of the Security Council to belong to the United Nations without assuming the responsibilities entailed by membership of the said Organization.
- c) because the veto hinders swift and effective action by the Security

Council in fulfilment of its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security as laid down in Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations.

d) because the veto constitutes a disregard of the will of the majority.

I am therefore writing on behalf of my Government to request you, Sir, to place on the agenda of the Second Part of the First General Assembly to be held on 23 September a convocatory for a general conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of revising its Charter, to be held on the date and in the place to be determined by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the Members of the General Assembly and by the votes of any seven of the Members of the Security Council, the primary object of this General Conference to be the elimination of the voting system laid down in Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter.

Please forward a copy of this letter to each of the Members of the United Nations.

Yours etc...

Guillermo Belt

Permanent Delegate of Cuba and

Ambassador to the United States of America.

Mr. Arkady Sobolev,  
Acting Secretary-General of the  
United Nations Organization,  
New York, N. Y.

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