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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN
ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 9 March 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the
United States of America to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

On behalf of my delegation, I request that the attached press release
from the Permanent Mission of Cuba be circulated as a document of the
Commission under item 12 of the agenda.

(Signed)

Morris B. Abram
Ambassador

Annex

CUBA - HUMAN RIGHTS

Cuba will not comply with United Nations Commission on
Human Rights resolution

Havana, 8 March (PL). President Fidel Castro declared that Cuba would not comply with a resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in relation to Cuba on the grounds that "it was the product of blackmail and pressure by the United States".

During a speech to the National Congress of Women, the Cuban leader vigorously asserted that "Cuba will not comply with so much as a comma of the resolution".

On Tuesday the Commission, meeting in Geneva, adopted a resolution by 19 votes to 12, with 12 abstentions, in which it called upon the Government of Cuba to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the domestic human rights situation and drew attention to alleged harassment of citizens who had testified before a United Nations delegation which visited Cuba in 1988 at the invitation of the Government.

During his almost three-hour speech at the closure of the Fifth Congress of the Federation of Women last night, the Cuban leader defied anyone to go to Cuba to ask for information.

He added that anyone who believed that traitors and counter-revolutionaries would go unpunished was mistaken.

He said that the levels attained by Cuba in the spheres of health and education showed that there was no country in the world more humane than Cuba.

Fidel Castro severely criticized the Governments of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria for supporting an anti-Cuban resolution in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and said that they would bear responsibility for any aggression against Cuba by the United States.

Czechoslovakia and Poland co-sponsored an anti-Cuban draft resolution by the United States in the Commission on Human Rights, while Bulgaria and Hungary, two of the 43 members of the Commission, voted in favour of the resolution.

Fidel Castro described the resolution put forward by the United States, which was adopted by 19 votes to 12, with 12 abstentions, as "despicable and cynical".

The harsh criticism was in contrast with his praise for the attitude of the Soviet Union, which supported Cuba in the Commission.

He also drew attention to the votes by the People's Republic of China, India, Yugoslavia and Mexico, which also voted in favour of Cuba.

The President of Cuba furthermore declared that, far from fulfilling the expectations of the United States, the situation in Nicaragua was potentially more revolutionary than it had been before the elections carried by the opposition.

He said that it would be necessary to examine Cuba's co-operation with Nicaragua, although he said that military co-operation would cease when the new Government took office or even before, and it would be impossible to continue to provide certain forms of economic co-operation.

In his analysis of the election results, he said that the elections had been a challenge which the Sandinistas had taken up under the most unfavourable circumstances, in the midst of a dirty war imposed by the United States and of the economic crisis engendered by the war and by the United States economic blockade.

He noted that the fact that the elections had been held only a few weeks after the collapse of the socialist bloc was a further unfavourable factor. The Sandinistas had been forced to make numerous concessions in view of the extremely trying circumstances they faced and had committed subjective errors, although he stressed that it was not the Cuban people, who were their friends, that would criticize them, particularly at a time of adversity.

He said that both Nicaragua and the rest of Central America were faced with an artificial and potentially conflictual situation involving the counter-revolutionary gangs organized and armed by the United States, the new Government supported by the United States, and the Sandinistas with hundreds of thousands of weapons.

In his speech, the Cuban Head of State also confirmed the arrival of Soviet MIG-29 combat aircraft as a result of agreements between Cuba and the USSR. He said that the USSR rejected any measures that would entail non-compliance with agreements between the two countries.

He added that the Soviet Union was, moreover, currently making a major effort to comply with its economic agreements with Cuba, in spite of the difficulties it faced.

Fidel Castro revealed the presence of the modern combat aircraft in Cuba in connection with a description of the measures adopted by Cuba to defend its sovereignty against a possible military attack by the United States.
