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LETTER OF 31 DECEMBER 1960 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL BY THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS
OF CUBA

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the United States, in clear violation of the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and the most elementary principles of international law, is about to perpetrate, within a few hours, direct military aggression against the Government and people of Cuba, thus placing in grave peril international peace and security.

The fraudulent pretext invoked for perpetrating this typical act of international piracy is "the construction on the island of Cuba of seventeen sites for the launching of Soviet rockets", as is cynically stated in a confidential note circulated by the United States Government among the Governments of Latin America. The Cuban Government has in its possession evidence of the sinister plan conceived by the Central Intelligence Agency, in close collaboration with the Pentagon and the United States monopolies adversely affected by the public welfare legislation promulgated by the Cuban revolution and with the open co-operation of Cuban war criminals who have sought refuge in the United States - including mercenaries, adventurers, spies, saboteurs and terrorists of every kind - and of various puppet governments of the Western Hemisphere.

The military intervention which is about to take place is the culmination of a policy of vexation, pressure, coercion, subversion and aggression on all fronts pursued by the United States Government against the Government and people of Cuba in consequence of the overthrow, by a movement of popular liberation launched by Dr. Fidel Castro, of the cruel, rapacious and corrupt tyranny of Batista, which during a period of seven years perpetrated every imaginable individual and collective crime with the encouragement and support of the State Department, the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal

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Bureau of Investigation and the great corporations which plundered with impunity the natural resources of our country and converted it into a political, economic, financial and diplomatic dependency of a foreign Power. The true motives and designs of this policy of calumny, subversion, aggression and intervention, openly pursued in order to force the sovereign will of the Cuban State and to force the surrender of the emancipated Cuban people, have been camouflaged behind false and specious charges with the obvious purpose of drawing Cuba by artificial means into the cold war strategy currently conducted by United States imperialists against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and all the socialist, democratic, progressive, anti-colonialist and pacifist forces of the world.

Preparatory to its armed aggression, the United States Government, which has also engaged in psychological warfare in the form of deception and confusion through the dissemination of rumours, false news and threats in order to spread fear, is now engaged in a manoeuvre with a view to the diplomatic isolation of Cuba within Latin America. The first evidence of this was the groundless rupture of diplomatic relations with the Cuban Government by the Government of Guatemala, and final proof of the same was last night's announcement by the Government of Peru that it was withdrawing its diplomatic representatives from Havana for reasons which we can only reject as false.

You are not aware of the fact that the United States Government, determined to rally all the Latin American Governments in a joint and open action against the self-determination, independence and sovereignty of Cuba, is exercising a tremendous pressure in all the Foreign Ministries with a view to creating the necessary conditions for an armed assault on our country. This activity has been intensified in the last few days, in conformity with the plan exposed above. The action of the Government of Peru is one flagrant example, and certain facts lead us to believe that other Latin American Governments may also be seeking to follow the same path of subjugation, surrender and treason in conformity with the demands of the United States Government.

Cabled despatches from Montevideo, Uruguay, affirm that the President of the Council of Government is envisaging the possibility of a rupture of diplomatic relations with Cuba and the expulsion of our Ambassador, falsely accusing him of activities beyond his competence. And the Uruguayan Ambassador

to the United States and to the Organization of American States is alleged to have made the absurd statement that the Soviet Union is constructing in Cuba seventeen rocket launching sites.

According to these despatches, which follow upon a whole sequence of acts of aggression already known to all and the intensification of preparations for a military invasion in the last few hours, there exists a document of the Department of State, circulated to all the Foreign Ministries on the American continent, in which it is stated, with unprecedented impudence, that President Eisenhower's Government is prepared to order a military intervention in Cuba in order to prevent the installation in the island of seventeen sites for the launching of Soviet rockets; the document states that, for the time being, the construction of the launching pads has been suspended, but intervention will be ordered whenever such construction is resumed.

The situation created by the United States Government began with the manoeuvres to expel Cuba from the Inter-American Defense Council, the malicious propaganda within the Organization of American States with regard to the Cuban refugees and the whole long chain of acts of pressure, subversion, aggression, provocation and intervention already denounced by Cuba in the United Nations, at the VI and VII meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics and in the Council of the Organization of American States.

The facts listed in this complaint relate to an extremely serious and dangerous phase of a situation which seriously affects international peace and security and could give rise to a conflict of unsuspected proportions and consequences. The Government and people of Cuba, in the exercise of their right of self-defence, are ready to repel the invader through their unity and strength. Nor will they tolerate the martyrdom of any other Government or people which, in seeking to assist them, is forced to defend itself and the self-determination of peoples, the equality of nations, the independence of States and world peace.

In accordance with the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, and in view of the importance and urgency of the question, I must ask you to arrange for an immediate meeting of the Security Council, so that it may examine the situation thoroughly and, after due deliberation upon the allegations which I have been duly authorized to bring to your notice, adopt the measures which it may deem necessary to prevent armed units of the United States and mercenaries in its service violating the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of a State Member of the United Nations.

In addressing this request, the Revolutionary Government relies on Articles 34, 35 (1), 52 (4), and 103 of the United Nations Charter and article 102 of the Charter of the Organization of American States; it also wishes to invoke Articles 24 (1), 31 and 32 of the United Nations Charter and articles 3, 4, 14, 37 and 38 of the rules of procedure of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Raúl ROA

Minister for External Relations
of Cuba
