

TO FREE PEOPLE

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE OF THE CUBAN NATION

On the 20th of May, 1972, concurrent to the Moscow Summit Meeting between the USA and the USSR, the Cuban people joins spirit in Washington, D.C. and resolves to uphold this National Declaration of Principle. We as Cubans regard with sympathy the summit negotiations towards peace and nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, to the USA and the USSR we state unequivocally that we do not recognize as valid the Kennedy-Khrushchev 1962 Executive Agreement which attempts to preserve the present Status Quo in Cuba, nor do we perceive the sincerity of the "Moscow Spirit" being that the very two signatory nations are precisely the same which in a direct manner infringe the sovereignty of the Cuban people by mutual understanding and through their military presence in Cuban national territory.

We come to Washington not to protest or to battle, not to ask or even to demand. We simply come to declare with the confidence of a people which has faith in itself, and divorces its destiny from past alliances. We come to define and reaffirm the fundamental principle and objectives of the Cuban nation. Principles that were not negotiable in the past, are not negotiable in the present and will not be negotiable in the future.

These Principles are:

- I—Absolute Independence*
- II—Political and Economic Sovereignty*
- III—Individual and Collective Liberty within the Framework of a Representative Republic*
- IV—The Cuban Nation in its Total Concept*
- V—An Integral Vision of Man*

All of these principles are today suppressed in Cuba as a result of the existing tyranny, the direct intervention of the Soviet Union, the connivance of the United States and, the vanity and irresolution of the sons of Cuba. In order to put an end to the violation of our national principles, we conclude that, since there are no legal resources left to us, the only recourse is armed insurrection. We also recognize that in order to achieve our goal, the initiative must emanate from the Cuban people itself. Cuba has decided to achieve its emancipation relying on her own resources.

ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE

Based on the concept of self-determination, we consider that the Soviet Union violates the integrity of our national territory acting as an imperialist-colonialist power. The Cuban tyranny depends for its existence on Soviet military support. Castro's dictatorship has submitted itself to Soviet domination: The presence of thousands of Soviet troops and personnel on Cuban soil is an obstacle to the incipient revolt of the Cuban people. The Soviet military intervention on Cuban soil is incompatible with our concept of absolute independence and therefore unacceptable. Also unacceptable is the use of Cuba as a strategic site within the Soviet global military system. We envision that a free Cuba will not accept any foreign military presence in its territory.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

As a nation and a State we will exact respect to our political and economic sovereignty and reciprocate with our own respect to other nation-states. As we struggled in the past to eliminate all foreign intrusion, so do we now fight against Soviet imposition.

The present tyranny has allowed the violation of our national autonomy and equally intrudes upon our sister nations. The Soviet system, which demands rigid centralization and administration of the Cuba economy, has been forced upon Cuba in detriment to the welfare of our people. Cuba has been subjected to division of labor within the Soviet Socialist Block, to consequently suffer a halt in economic diversification and remain the client state of a single power.

Castro's dictatorship, accordingly, has unconditionally bowed to the U.S.S.R's imperialist political line. Pressured by this commitment, Castro's government unhesitatingly endorsed the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968; an act of servility which illustrates the régime's disrespect for the self-determination of nations and in no way expresses the real sentiments of the Cuban people.

The people of Cuba claim the right to dictate its own international policy. We believe that throughout the American continent, as well as the world, each nation state should rule its own political and economic interests, in the absence of foreign interference. A free Cuba's doors will be open to all those countries which uphold this principle.

INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTY WITHIN A REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLIC

Man's right to individual freedom within a representative republic is the Cuban nation's fundamental principle and cardinal goal. No pact or agreement which brings about a government neglectful of the people's sovereignty, or blind to the people's rightful access to public power is acceptable. Our insurgent posture will not flinch until this utmost historic aspiration of our people is fulfilled.

Today the island of Cuba is commanded by a military oligarchy which rules by decree and usurps the place of law, only possible arbiter of free societies.

Intellectual curiosity is persecuted, subdued to dogma, and banned from universities.

Freedom of thought translates into slavish obedience.

The price of dissent is political imprisonment. The zeal for freedom is quenched by the firing squad.

The natural need to freely and privately assemble stifles under ubiquitous vigilance. The Cuban home remains at the mercy of statal repression.

A new privileged class has taken possession of Cuba which inflicts at gun's point its arbitrary will. The Cuban's loss of personal and collective liberty in his own land amounts to the loss of his very life's essence. The tyranny which negates his right to define his direction by free suffrage embodies a contradiction to human nature, and is incompatible with our true development as a people.

THE CUBAN NATION IN ITS TOTAL CONCEPT

The concept of a Cuban nation is an integral part of the consciousness of its sons, and a functional part of the Cuban republic, transcending time and space.

Nations are timeless and indivisible. The people of Cuba, historically, have taken the road to exile in order to serve the republic. It was in exile that our basic political and national principles went through a maturing process early in the 19th century. Exile promoted the Cuban War of Independence. Today, making use of the liberty of action and thought that exile provides, we resume the task of liberation. "SIN PATRIA PERO IN AMO", (Countryless But Masterless"), is a historic belief of the Cuban people which kneels before no false gods, and accepts no defecation of tyrants, domestic or foreign.

The Cuban nation, though dispersed, maintains one common destiny. In and outside Cuba, an identical national spirit unites us toward one same end. A "nation" rests not in government or geography, but within the feelings and sovereignty of its children. Our exile is now, as in the past, in the service of one common and indivisible, free and sovereign motherland.

INTEGRAL VISION OF MAN

Our integral vision of man is based on that of Cuban patriot Jose Marti. It is the total comprehension of human misery and the cult to virtue, freedom and spiritual regeneration. It is altruism, and identification with a moral world ruled by "the full practice of dignity."

We categorically condemn Fidel Castro's regime, the egoism and materialism of its preachings and practice, and their destruction of any form of human solidarity. We condemn its concentration camps, its political prisons, its firing squads, its negation of the peasant's true right to his land, its abuse of the worker, its view of the citizen as a slave to the state. A military society is incompatible with our concept of man. The dictatorial whims which today benumb the Cuban nation remain unacceptable.

Our ambition is to create a peaceful and fairer society, rid of poverty and hate—and free. Slaves of neither misery or oppression, we covet a spiritual redemption in a community that holds respect for human dignity.

RESOLUTION

The Cuban nation, united in its grief, proclaims to the world its inalienable right to fight against tyranny in and outside Cuba. Liberty and dignity will be returned to Cuba by strictly Cuban efforts, independent of foreign sponsoring. Although we do seek for the understanding of the Americas, we do not submit to expectations based on their approval or support.

We state in this Declaration of Principle, that it is in our legitimate claim and duty to act when we deem it necessary, where we deem it necessary. And we shall act with or without the sanction of any foreign government. A new generation sprouts in Cuba which does not tolerate the anachronism of an oligarchic, militaristic, communist dictatorship. With the subversive writings of our intellectuals, the violent demonstrations by our students, the quiet but persistent acts of sabotage by our workers, the rebellious pride of our brothers in prison, and the general passive resistance of the Cuban people, dawns the time of liberation. Revolution will

spawn; insurrection will begin at the very bosom of the nation.

We in banishment do not forget our brothers who are inflicted under tyranny, and share their pain. We wander freely but lifeless, for what joy is there left for him who shrugs at existence in absence from his native soil. We thus have decided to fight against all obstacles, foreign and our own—for life away from home is death.

Let the world understand that a united Cuban nation will not die. The legitimacy of our purpose issues from an only source: the historic consciousness of the Cuban people. Our principles originate solely from a historic national thought. One million lives given to this cause along a hundred and fifty years of struggle attest to the power of our will and endurance. We conclude, therefore, that our historic revolutionary roots of genuinely national through and action are infinitely stronger than the temporary, sickly deviations incurred by totalitarianism.

Our love for our country will wage war on every front. Our belief in human dignity, untamable and indivisible, will win us the sympathy and support of other peoples and the respect of our foes. Our flag, "belonging to all and for the good of all", shuns bitterness and vengeance, forgives and welcomed all men of honor. Cuba's children unite today and assume their responsibility with history to liberate and govern the reconstruction of our land.

CUBAN COMMITTEE FOR 20TH OF MAY MARCH ON WASHINGTON

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