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LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1960 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF CUBA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honour to inform you of the grave situation which now exists, with manifest danger to international peace and security, as a consequence of the repeated threats, harassments, intrigues, reprisals and aggressive acts to which my country has been subjected by the Government of the United States of America.

This situation began to take concrete shape from the moment when the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, in exercise of the powers devolving from its full sovereignty, adopted measures designed to safeguard the national resources and to raise the standard of living, health and education of the Cuban people. Long before the promulgation of the Agrarian Reform Act - the indispensable precondition for Cuba's future economic, political, social and cultural development and an effective safeguard for the exercise of the fundamental freedoms - there had already been launched, with the object of preparing and promoting plans of intervention conceived almost immediately following the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship and now being openly pursued, a co-ordinated and mounting campaign intended to obscure the national, anti-feudal and democratic character of the Cuban revolution, and seeking to distort its origin, course and purposes.

We have vainly expressed, in keeping with our policy of friendship and co-operation with all nations and peoples of the world, the desire of the Cuban Government and people to live in peace and harmony and to extend, on a basis of equality, mutual respect and reciprocal benefit, their diplomatic and economic relations with the Government and people of the United States of America. What the Government which I represent has been unwilling to do, as it still is and always will be, is to negotiate its disputes with any State which, instead of conforming to the principles of international law, takes up positions of strength.

The protection offered by the Government of the United States to notorious Cuban war criminals, the facilities provided to counter-revolutionary elements

for their conspiracies and invasion plans, the frequent violations of Cuban air space, with loss of life and considerable material damage, by aircraft proceeding from United States territory and in some cases piloted by United States pilots, the unconcealed diplomatic pressure, the repeated statements derogatory to our right of self-determination made by leading figures of the three branches of government of the United States, including the President himself, the insulting conduct of the Senate Interior Sub-Committee, which is offensive to human dignity and infringes our sovereignty, the continued threats of economic strangulation which have now been put into effect through the refusal of the oil companies to refine crude oil owned by the Cuban State - an obligation binding on them under the Mineral Fuel Act of 1938 - and through the extraordinary powers, now in application, conferred upon the President of the United States to reduce the Cuban sugar quota, and the recent meeting of the National Security Council, at which the future of Cuba was discussed as if that country were a factory or a subject people - these, by any standards, are acts which go to make up a policy of intervention in Cuba's domestic affairs and of economic aggression contrary to the basic terms of the relevant international treaties and agreements and to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter.

These acts, which will be described in detail at the appropriate time, have brought about a situation which seriously affects international peace and heightens the tensions brought about by the collapse of the Summit Conference. Accordingly, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, without prejudice to its right of self-defence, requests Your Excellency to convene the Security Council immediately in order that that body may consider the situation and, after hearing the statements of the undersigned, who is duly accredited for the purpose, may take such measures as it deems fit.

In submitting this question, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba bases itself on Article 52, paragraph 4, and Article 103 of the United Nations Charter which, without invalidating any regional arrangements and agencies, clearly lay down that obligations under the Charter shall prevail over such arrangements.

In submitting this application, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba invokes Articles 24, 34, 35, paragraph 1, and 36 of the Charter, and article 3 of the rules of procedure of the Security Council.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Raúl ROA

Minister for Foreign Affairs
