

***The Position of Cuba
on the Tripartite Pact
and the Denuclearised Zone
in Latin-America***

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World opinion received with approval the news of the signing of the Treaty of Moscow on the partial prohibition of nuclear tests in so far as this implied a relaxation of the anxiety over the dangerous consequences which the diffusion of radio-activity, caused by the tests, brings upon humanity, and in so far as it represented a possibility of lessening international tension. Cuba shared in this feeling of world opinion.

However, it is precisely from the time of signing this Treaty that the Government of the United States, an imperialist nuclear power, signatory to the same, has begun a new wave of aggression against Cuba. It has renewed its activity with the intention of destroying the Cuban Revolution, furthering all kinds of acts which, in contradiction to the pacific aims of the Treaty, increase the tension existing in the Caribbean thus reproducing the conditions which gave rise to the so-called "October Crisis" of last year, with real danger to the peace of the world.

From the very moment of the signing of the Moscow Treaty, the imperialist Government of the United States, in addition to the adoption of measures directed towards the economic and financial blockade, has been extending the acts of infiltration by agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and of saboteurs on our national territory, who have been conveyed to our coasts in armed embarkation vessels of the United States Government itself; the pirate attacks by air and sea have redoubled, the U.S. Government using armed boats and bomber and fighter planes, including jet aircraft of their Air Force. These acts have caused material damage and loss of human life in our country.

At the same time, with cynical publicity, Cuban counter-revolutionaries are being concentrated in Central American territory, with the undisguised complicity of certain puppet Governments, and the training of these counter-revolutionary forces is being hastened, financed and guided by the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department of the Government of the United States.

BAD FAITH

All the bad faith and deceit which characterise the United States Government are evidenced by these two-faced, opportunist and Machiavellian policies. The United States is mistaken, moreover, if it thinks that there can be a climate for peace in the world and a policy of war against Cuba.

It is for this reason that the Revolutionary Government of Cuba considers itself obliged to define its position in respect of the said Treaty, taking into account the special circumstances caused by the activities carried out by the United States Government, precisely from the moment of signing this same Treaty.

Cuba values, highly, whatever successes can be achieved on the rock-strewn path to disarmament. Cuba supports the policy of peace of the Soviet Union, which has been the inspiration, no doubt, of its participation in the conclusion of the Treaty of Partial Prohibition of Nuclear Tests. Cuba is willing to bring as much force as may be useful to the universal cause of peace. But Cuba cannot be a signatory to this Treaty while one of the signatory Powers is carrying out, simultaneously with the signing of the Treaty, a series of activities, and is executing a policy towards our country, which, in the final resort, are bringing about what is in effect a state of undeclared war.

At the time of the "October Crisis", the Revolutionary Government of Cuba pointed out that for our people there could be no genuinely peaceful solution while the Government of the United States persisted in its gross violation of the most elementary rights of the Cuban people.

ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

The Government of the United States is maintaining, systematically, the economic blockade and all the means of oppression, commercial and economic, which it employs in all parts of the world, against our country.

The Government of the United States is pursuing its subversive activities: launching and disembarkation of arms and explosives by air and sea; infiltration of spies and saboteurs—these actions being carried out from the territory of the United States and from the territories of certain of her accomplices.

The United States is continuing to violate systematically our airspace and territorial waters with her aeroplanes and warships.

The United States still maintains on Cuban territory the military base of Guantanamo, which does not recognise our sovereignty and

exists against the will of our people; this base is used, precisely, for the previously mentioned violations of our air-space, the introduction of spies and saboteurs and the promotion of counter-revolutionary activities in our country.

Cuba will not, therefore, sign the Treaty of Partial Prohibition of Nuclear Tests while the Government of the United States continues its criminal and illegitimate activities against our country.

The non-signing by Cuba of the Treaty of Partial Prohibition of Nuclear Tests will not change, of course, the practical results of the treaty. Cuba is not a nuclear power and lacks resources to be such a power. But it is Cuba's duty to adopt in the body of the United Nations Organisation a moral position inspired by the inviolate principles of our international policy.

UNIVERSAL CONSCIENCE FOR PEACE

The universal conscience for peace, which has been stirred into action to demand measures to preserve mankind from war, must also be aroused to demand respect for the integrity and the life of all countries alike. Peace must be a universal Good, enjoyed by all peoples, great and small.

The case of South Vietnam is a palpable example. What right has the United States to launch against the people of that country, living thousands of miles away from its frontiers, a shocking and brutal war? What right have the Yankee aeroplanes to bomb the citizens of that country? What right have their soldiers and officers to kill the Vietnamese with impunity? This shameful, unjustifiable, colonial war offends the universal conscience. It is time that this International Organisation do something.

This is why the Cuban Delegation to the United Nations calls upon all States, especially the African States and other States here represented, whose peoples are fighting to affirm their political and economic independence, just as they urge the just condemnation of South Africa for its policy of "Apartheid" and the cruel expressions of colonialist oppression as in Angola, so, with equal force, to condemn the criminal intervention in South Vietnam and the other neo-colonial undertakings which invalidate in fact whatever efforts are being made in favour of world peace.

DENUCLEARISED ZONE

With reference to the suggestions directed towards the conversion of Latin America into a denuclearised zone, the Delegation of the

Revolutionary Government of Cuba to the United Nations wishes to define clearly its exact position:

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba, on principle, is not opposed to the creation of denuclearised zones, nor to any other method or initiative aimed at reducing the possibilities of a nuclear conflagration—a risk with unforeseeable consequences, to which our people, and the whole world, were very nearly exposed during the past “October Crisis” which was generated by the attempts at invasion of our country by the forces of the Government of the United States.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba appreciates highly the intentions which inspired these suggestions on the part of certain Heads of State of Latin-American countries, and has been willing to analyse, with interest, the substance of these proposals. However, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba understands that the efficacy of these initiatives is essentially conditioned by the extent which they cover, in respect of the use of nuclear arms by the only nuclear power which exists in this continent, that is to say, by the United States of America.

U.S. MILITARY BASES

The United States owns Latin-American territories on the Panama Canal. It is in possession of Puerto Rico, a land and people which the nations of Latin-America will not cease to consider as Latin-American. The United States possesses various military bases on Latin-American territory and usurps against the will of the Cuban people a stretch of Cuban territory on the Bay of Guantanamo. That is to say, that in Cuba's own territory, the United States, a nuclear country, boasts a military base.

The Cuban people will accept no denuclearisation agreement unless it entails, at least, the denuclearisation of the Panama Canal, Puerto Rico, the various North American bases in this continent not on their own territory and the return to Cuba of that portion of Cuban territory which it illegitimately usurps.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba is in favour of whatever efforts may be made in order to create a system of world security, but considers that the value of such a system is dependent on its being a system of security without exceptions or privileges for anyone.

This is the position of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba. We appreciate the good faith of the suggestions. We are willing to discuss them, but we establish, as irrevocable conditions of our final

adherence to the same, the necessity of an undertaking by the Government of the United States to denuclearise the territories under its jurisdiction, such as the Panama Canal and Puerto Rico, and the dismantling and withdrawal of the North American military bases in Latin America, especially of the Naval Base at Guantanamo in our country.

YEARNING FOR PEACE

We yearn more than anyone for peace in our continent. The Cuban Revolution is striving towards a great undertaking of historic creation and an effort of this magnitude can only reach its ambitious objectives in a climate of peace. But as we want a true peace, we desire that whatever suggestions are put forward in order to guarantee that peace shall be really useful; we understand that the usefulness of such suggestions is determined by the power they have to bind the aggressive hands of the only nuclear power existing in America, i.e. the U.S. Government, which, with its policy of aggression against small countries and of obstinate interference, is blocking the paths to peace, is preparing for local colonial wars and is increasing, at this moment, its acts of aggression against our country, thus reproducing the circumstances which in October of last year brought this Continent and the whole world near to the brink of nuclear disaster.

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