

STATEMENT

Stealing Cuban Assets

[Following is a shortened version of a Statement issued by the minister of foreign affairs, Cuba, regarding the theft by the government of the United States of Cuban funds frozen in that country.]

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has learnt that the theft of Cuban funds illegally frozen in US banks after the triumph of the Revolution was committed in the United States for the fourth time on 27 November, 2006 under the protection of the so-called "Cuban Assets Control Regulations", approved on 8 July 1963, which established, among other measures, the freezing of Cuban assets in the United States as part of the illegal and cruel policy of the blockade on Cuba.

This shameless theft was carried out in order to satisfy the legal rulings of the spurious lawsuits brought against Cuba before US courts by the American citizens Janet Ray Weininger and Dorothy Anderson McCarthy. These plaintiffs were awarded a total of 72,126,884 dollars from Cuban funds frozen in bank accounts of the National Bank of Cuba and the Cuban Telecommunications Company (EMTELCUBA). In both cases US federal courts validated the rulings of a Florida state court.

One of the lawsuits against Cuba was brought before the court of the 11th Judicial Circuit of the state of Florida for the county of Miami-Dade by Janet Ray Weininger, daughter of American pilot, Thomas Willard Ray, whom she falsely alleged was killed by summary execution on 19 April 1961, during the mercenary invasion of Playa Giron.

In reality, he was an American attacking pilot, a CIA official, who was brought down during the invasion and whose body remained in the Institute of Legal Medicine of Cuba for 18 years due to the fact that the United States Government concealed his identity and refused to accept that he was an American citizen, so as not to acknowledge his direct part in the failed invasion. Finally, in 1979, due to the efforts of the Ray family and after acknowledgment by the US government of the identity and US citizenship of the pilot, it was possible to return his body to his relatives.

In the other lawsuit, brought by Dorothy Anderson McCarthy, the aforementioned state court accepted the charges of supposed torture and extra-judicial killing of American citizen Howard F Anderson without any proof and when in reality this was the case of an American citizen who was tried on 18 April 1961 by the Revolutionary Court of Pinar del Rio in Trial No. 97 of that year for his subversive activities at the service of the US government and against the Cuban people, and sentenced to death.

Anderson had been detained by the State Security Body on 26 March 1961, just a few weeks before the invasion of Giron, for being a member of a group of former soldiers at the service of the tyranny, members of the terrorist groups "Anti-Communist Civic Association" (ACA) and the "Democratic Revolutionary

Front" (FRD), which were preparing armed uprisings in accordance with instructions from the CIA. Some 8 tons of weapons were seized from Anderson's group, which had been buried on the southern coast of Pinar del Rio and had been brought to Cuba on 22 February 1961 by a US-registered boat, as part of a CIA operation. The investigation confirmed that Anderson, who was operating in Cuba under the pseudonym of "Lee", was the liaison between the CIA and the aforementioned counter revolutionary organizations in Cuba.

During the course of the lawsuits against Cuba, which have culminated in a new act of theft of Cuban frozen funds, the US government acted in absolute complicity with the plaintiffs, by arguing that US law permitted the use of said funds to satisfy rulings in favour of the plaintiffs, and that the Treasury Department would not impede this in anyway and would even exempt them from the need to obtain a license to take the money.

These actions against Cuba are based on the arbitrary and politicized manipulation of the fact that Cuba has been branded a State which supposedly "sponsors international terrorism" by the US government, in a distorted interpretation of the very laws of the United States.

It is completely unacceptable that the Cuban State should be accused of commissioning supposed acts of terrorism against American citizens, when in fact it is acts of terrorism and armed attacks on Cuba, perpetrated from that country, that have caused the deaths and severe physical and mental injury of thousands of Cuban nationals, as well as great economic damage to Cuba. ~~del del~~