

'Politics and Ethics'

Fidel Castro Ruz

It isn't too difficult. After his inauguration, Barack Obama stated that the return of the territory occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base to its legitimate owner had to be carefully considered, in the first place, in terms of whether it would affect the defense capacity of the United States in the most minimal way.

He immediately added that, in relation to the return to Cuba of the occupied territory, he would have to consider under which concessions the Cuban side would accede to that solution, which is equivalent to demanding a change in its political system, a price against which Cuba has fought for half a century.

Maintaining a military base in Cuba against the will of Cuban people is in violation of the most elemental principles of international law. It is a faculty of the president of the United States to abide by that standard without any conditions. Not to respect it constitutes an act of arrogance and an abuse of his immense power against a little country.

If one wishes to better understand the abusive nature of the power of the empire, statements published on the official Internet website by the US government on January 22, after Barack Obama's inauguration, should be taken into account. Biden and Obama are resolutely decided on supporting the relations between the United States and Israel and consider their incontrovertible commitment in the Middle East must be to the security of Israel, the United States' principal ally in the region.

The United States will never distance itself from Israel and its president and vice president "believe strongly in Israel's right to protect its citizens," assures the statement of principles which, in those points, takes up the policy followed by Obama's predecessor, George W Bush.

It is the mode of sharing in the genocide of Palestinians into which Obama has fallen. He is offering similar sweeteners to Russia, China, Europe, Latin America and the rest of the world, after the United States converted Israel into an important nuclear power that annually absorbs a significant part of the exports of the empire's prosperous military industry, with which it threatens, with extreme violence, the population of all countries of Muslim faith.

There are many similar examples, one does not need to be a fortune teller. For more information, read the statements of the new Pentagon chief, an expert in military affairs.

Some of Obama's ideas point to his role within a system that is the negation of every just principle.

There are people who throw up their hands in horror at the expression of any critical opinion of this important figure, even when it is done decently and respectfully. This is always accompanied by subtle and not so subtle darts from those who possess the means to circulate and transform such opinions into components of media terrorism, which they impose on the peoples in order to sustain the unsustainable.

Without exception, any criticism of Castro is qualified as an attack, a charge or other similar nouns that reflect a lack of consideration and courtesy toward the person to whom they are directed.

On this occasion, it is necessary to ask certain questions to which the new president of the United States should respond, among the many that could be formulated.

For example, the following :

Will he renounce or not his prerogative as president of the United States—and as exercised by many in the same office with very few exceptions as per se right of the power to order the assassination of foreign political adversaries, who always tend to be from underdeveloped countries?

Maybe one of his various collaborators has informed him at some point of the sinister actions against Cuba undertaken by presidents, from Eisenhower and those who followed him, in the years 1960, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66 and '67, including the mercenary Bay of Pigs invasion, campaigns of terror, the smuggling of vast quantities of weapons and explosives into Cuba and other similar actions?

It is not essential to cast any blame on Barack Obama, the current president of the United States, for acts that his presidential predecessors carried out before he was born or when he was just a child of six, born in Hawaii to a Muslim, black Kenyan father and a white American Christian mother. Does President Obama know that for entire decades, Cuba was victim to the introduction of viruses and bacteria carrying diseases and plagues that affected humans, animals and plants, some of which—like hemorrhagic dengue fever—subsequently led to epidemics that cost the lives of thousands of children in Latin America, and plagues that affected the economy of the nations of the Caribbean and the rest of the continent, as collateral damage that it has not been possible to eliminate?

Was he aware that a number of politically subordinated Latin American countries—today ashamed of the damage that they caused—participated in these acts of terrorism?

Why has a disruptive Cuban Adjustment Act been imposed on Cuban people, the only such case in the world, engendering the trafficking of humans and acts that have cost people's lives, fundamentally women and children?

Was it just to implement an economic blockade against Cuban people that has lasted for close to 50 years?

Was it correct to arbitrarily demand of the world the extraterritorial extension of that blockade, which can only generate hunger and scarcity for any nation?

The United States cannot satisfy its vital needs without the extraction of vast mineral resources from a large number of countries which, in many cases, are restricted to exporting these without intermediary refining processes, an activity that, in general, if it suits the empire's interests, is marketed by the large transnational corporations of Yankee capital.

Will that country renounce such privileges?

Is such a measure compatible with the developed capitalist system?

When Mr Obama promises to invest considerable sums in order to become self-sufficient in oil, in spite of his country currently constituting the largest market in the world, what will happen to those nations whose basic income is derived from exporting that energy, many of them without any other significant source of income?

When, as after any crisis, the competing and battling for markets and sources of employment are once again unleashed among those who best and

most efficiently monopolize technologies with sophisticated means of production, what possibilities are left to the underdeveloped countries that dream of industrialization?

However efficient the new vehicles that the automobile industry attains might be, will those procedures perhaps be what ecology requires for protecting humanity from the growing deterioration of the climate?

Can the blind philosophy of the market replace what only rationality can promote?

Obama is promising to print vast quantities of money in search of technologies that will multiply the production of energy, without which modern societies would be paralyzed.

The energy sources that he has promised to rapidly develop include nuclear plants, which already have a high number of opponents, given the large risk of accidents with disastrous effects on life, the atmosphere and human alimentation. It is absolutely impossible to guarantee that such accidents will not take place.

Without any need for such disastrous accidents, modern industry has contaminated all the seas of the planet with their toxic emissions.

Is it correct to promise the conciliation of such contradictory and antagonistic interests without transgressing ethics?

In order to please the trade unions that supported their campaign, the US House of Representatives, dominated by Democrats, has launched the extremely protectionist slogan "Buy US products," which casts aside a basic principle of the World Trade Organization, given that all the nations of the world, large or small, base their dreams of development on the exchange of goods and services for which, however, only the largest and those rich in natural resources have the privilege of surviving.

Republicans in the United States, hit hard by the discredit brought upon them by the blunders of the Bush government, have been neither slow nor tardy in forestalling Obama's indulgencies to his trade union allies. Hence, the credit that voters granted the new president of the United States is being squandered.

Questions without easy answers could be formulated every day in line with the publication of hundreds of news items from the political, scientific and technological spheres that are reaching every country in the world. □□□

[Courtesy : Granma International, Havana]