

TARGETING CUBAN REVOLUTION

[Following is excerpted from the introduction of a Report by Cuba on Resolution 60/12 of the UN General Assembly.]

The genocidal blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States, which has spanned four decades and has been intensified over recent years, has been condemned by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 consecutive occasions by a practically unanimous vote. Last year, 182 States demanded that it be put to an end and rejected its extraterritorial nature, thus defending the principles and rules of International Law.

The United States Government continues to ignore these demands and reinforces the web of measures and laws aimed at destroying the Cuban Revolution and denying its people their right to self-rule. It is worth remembering that the United States has harbored a desire and longing to control Cuba since the very beginning of the American Union.

In 1898 US military intervention robbed the Cuban people of their right to be free. They were denied their sovereignty, something they so deserved after 30 years of unequal battle against Spanish colonialism, when a cartoon republic was established, under the humiliating tutelage of a constitutional appendix, known as the Platt Amendment, through which the nascent US Empire acknowledged their authority to invade and occupy Cuba militarily whenever.

For more than half a century, US administrations subjected the Cuban people to colonial rule, while their monopolies exploited their national heritage with the assent and complicity of successive governments and the imposition of brutal military dictatorships, each time that it became necessary to use violence to silence the just demands and the anti-imperialist convictions of the Cuban people.

With the profound social revolution that began in 1959 as a result of the work of the Cuban people, the circles of power in the United States rapidly came to regard the Cuban Revolution as a blatant defiance of their attempts to dominate the hemisphere and the world as a whole. Successive administrations of republicans and democrats have maintained and, with the passing of the years, intensified an undeclared war, aimed at reimposing their iron grip on the fate of Cuba.

As early as 12 February 1959, action aimed at this end was set in motion. The first example was the decision not to return to Cuba the 424 million dollars of National Bank reserves, stolen by the ringleaders of the Batista dictatorship when they fled and deposited in banks based in the country that gave them protection and impunity.

A few weeks later, in a memorandum from the Department of State dated 24 June, the Secretary of State, Christian Herter, defined these “initial acts” as “economic war measures”. In another document dated 6 April 1960, the imperialist resolve to destroy the revolutionary movement in Cuba was made more explicit.

Ten administrations have waged this economic war in violation of rights and morals and have forced other States to submit to this policy. They have threatened and repressed US citizens and foreign countries.

One of the consequences of the blockade is that Cuba cannot export any product to the United States, nor can they import any merchandise from that country; Cuba cannot trade with subsidiaries of US companies in third countries; it cannot receive US tourists; it cannot use the dollar in its transactions with foreign nations; it does not have access to credit from multilateral, regional or US financial institutions, and cannot operate with them, its ships and aircrafts cannot touch US soil.

It is with increasing severity that the US government has applied the extraterritorial provisions of the blockade, imposing strict restrictions to international trade, the framework in which the harassment of the commercial operations that could in any way be linked to Cuba is intensified.

It would be impossible to list all of the examples of this long-standing aim, which has been the motivating force behind all regulations, laws or plans approved by the US government regarding Cuba, notable illustrations of which include the Torricelli Law (1992), the Helms-Burton Law (1996) and the successive and complementary versions of the Plan to Annex Cuba, formulated by the ill titled “Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba”, which was created by President Bush with the aim of destroying the political, economic and social system endorsed by the Cuban people.

The brutal and merciless harassment of Cuba’s economy and society at the hands of the United States affects each and every of the country’s areas and spheres of activity.

The ill titled “Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba”, the first report of which was approved by the US president on 6 May 2004, has been accompanied by an uncontrolled and irrational escalation of the policy of the economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba. The persecution and repression of all those around the world who have any link with Cuba have reached unprecedented heights.

The Commission’s new report, which confirms and amplifies the 2004 version, recommends measures including the creation of an Interagency Task Force specifically aimed at persecuting the Cuban nickel industry; the reinforcement of the Persecution Group of Cuban Assets; the ban on sales to Cuba of medical products to be used for the large-scale treatment of foreigners, such as the

international cooperation program that offers ophthalmologic surgery, known as *Operation Milagro* (Miracle Operation), to be used to train doctors, or to offer aid to other countries when natural disasters hit; the imposition of sanctions on companies that collaborate on the work to drill for and produce oil; and the commencement of sanctions on countries that supposedly support Cuba in accordance with Title III of the Helms-Burton Law, which would permit suits to be brought in US courts against companies and citizens from third countries.

This time the report includes a secret clause which contains recommendations that have not been published, supposedly due to reasons of “national security and effective implementation”. The Cuban people are no strangers to this type of “undercover” measures and actions that the anti-Cuban commission attempts to conceal, and have suffered their brutal effects for more than four decades. These proposed “secrets” have ranged from mercenary military attacks and terrorist acts to hundreds of plots to assassinate President Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders.

According to extremely conservative analyses the direct economic damage to Cuba caused by the blockade exceeds 86108 million dollars: an annual average of 1832 million dollars. This figure does not include the direct damage to the country’s economic and social objectives through the use of sabotage and terrorist acts encouraged, organized and financed in the United States, which totals more than 54 billion dollars, nor does it include the value of the products that it was not possible to produce or the damage caused by the onerous credit conditions imposed on Cuba.

Last year, the direct economic damage to Cuba caused by the blockade exceeded 4108 million dollars. ✂✂