

UN-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Havana, 20th., January 1990

H.E. Mr. Essy Amara
President of the Security Council
United Nations Organization
New York

Mr. President:

The Government of the United States of America has reiterated its decision to install in American territory, and with official budgeting from that country, a television station devoted exclusively to transmit to Cuba in Spanish.

According to the logic of the project and to revelations of its promoters, the plan is based on the compulsive occupation of one or more television channels in Cuban territory, by means of their technological and financial superiority; it is clearly an attempt to mutilate the national sovereignty of my country and prevent it from administering its radio-electric spectrum, a right which constitutes a fundamental proviso of the Convention of the International Telecommunications Union of which the United States and Cuba, together with 130 other States, are signatories. This is, furthermore a precedent threatening the whole of the Third World.

The interfering and destabilizing purposes of the North-American Government are not only legally groundless, but openly defy the international community implying, as they do, a brutal violation of international legislation on telecommunications.

In this attempt, the United States tries further to trample on the principles contained in the United Nations Charter inherent to sovereignty, self-determination and non-interference, as well as to ignore UNESCO's conventions and agreements relative to the use of satellites for television services.

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In trying to impose a TV signal which could be received in Cuban homes without the need to use special antennae or instruments, the United States contradicts the letter and spirit of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

The pretexts used by the North-American Government are as childish as they are cynical, as they are, on a transmissions viewed by our people.

Cuba, Mr. President, is not obliged to please the Government of the United States nor to offer explanations on the contents of its television programs. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate the international community's understanding, I am pleased to stress that my country's television is characterized, precisely, by its openness, that programs from 26 countries, on the average, appear on its screens of which furthermore, the majority are made in USA.

Also worth mentioning is the paradox expressed in the fact that the Government of the United States which, according to its own laws, can barely influence the programming of TV emissions consumed by its citizens, should take it upon itself to determine the contents of TV programs in another State.

That same government, through the economic blockade imposed on Cuba, not only impedes the normal exchange of transmissions and programs, but has attempted to ruin our television services by preventing us to buy in that country, and even in international markets, technical equipment necessary for its functioning.

The Government of Cuba, through your good self, calls the attention of the international community and alerts it on the fact that its implementation would entail a violation of Cuban national sovereignty, thus compelling our country to fight against its completion through all available means, without excluding any.

It is necessary to make it clear that the Government of Cuba will not remain impassible in the face of unilateral actions of that nature by the United States Government, which are not related to the promotion of mutual understanding or cultural exchange, but to the continuation of its policy of hostility and aggression against our country. The Government of the Republic of Cuba will not allow the Government of the United States to violate our national sovereignty with impunity.

We have that firm resolve and have taken steps which enable us to respond to this new aggression in a consequent manner. This would lead not only to a greater deterioration of relations between Cuba and the United States, but would unleash a crisis of un-foreseeable consequences, increasing tensions in the area and threatening international peace and security. Cuba would be acting in that case, with the legitimacy which assists an aggressed party.

Our Government reiterates its readiness to negotiate with the United States the normalization of the situation concerning mutual medium-wave interferences, reciprocity of radio transmissions between the two countries on that frequency band including the exchange of radio and television programs of all kinds. We would also be ready to submit any complaints arising from this aspect of our differences to international arbitration.

Mr. President, my country urges you to use your good offices in order that the provisions of the United Nations Charter and current international legislation be respected; it holds the United States Government responsible for any consequences that may stem from the continuation of its adventuristic, irresponsible and aggressive policy in an area as sensitive as that of international telecommunications.

On renewing to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration, I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(signed)

Isidoro Malmierca
Minister of External Relations
of the Republic of Cuba