



**MOVIMIENTO NACIONALISTA CUBANO** • P.O. Box 441002 • Miami, Florida 33144 • Phone: 633-1717 • Fax: 633-7924

April 19, 1996

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
United States House of Representatives  
Longworth House Office Building 1730  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Menendez:

The Cuban Nationalist Movement, which has been active in the cause of Cuban liberty since 1959, makes this personal appeal to you for the formulation of a House bill that would fully disclose and abrogate the secret Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding of 1962.

This classified agreement is still in effect today, according to a letter dated April 7, 1995, that Dennis Hays, then Director of the Office of Cuban Affairs of the Department of State, sent Professor Antonio de la Cova. Enclosed is a copy of the letter, where Hays confirmed that some of the documents "related to the understanding have not been declassified or released." He also acknowledged that the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union's successor states have inherited the commitments of the 1962 understanding.

The secret understanding that ended the Cuban Missile Crisis is composed of twenty-five letters exchanged between President John Kennedy and Chairman Nikita Khrushchev, along with still classified memorandums of conversations between American and Soviet officials. The gist of the agreement was that the Soviet Union would withdraw their nuclear missiles from Cuba and in exchange the United States government promised to remove its missiles from Turkey and Italy, never to invade Cuba, nor allow Cuban exiles to attack Castro from any country in the Western Hemisphere. To safeguard the agreement, a Soviet combat brigade remained on the island, although it constituted a violation of the Monroe Doctrine.

Enclosed are copies of U.S. government documents and newspaper articles indicating that the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding was confirmed in 1970 by President Richard Nixon and reconfirmed in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter. According to the "Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents," on August 24, 1985, President Ronald Reagan, when asked if he was "prepared to denounce that agreement publicly and officially," refused to do so, stating, "I don't see where there's any need to take action with regard to that particular agreement." In June 1986, the Florida State Legislature petitioned the U.S. Congress to disclose the details of the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding. No action was ever taken by Congress. According to former Reagan

*Con... Por.. Y Para La Patria*

Administration officials Jeane Kirkpatrick, Elliott Abrams and Constantine Menges, in interviews with Professor de la Cova, the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding also prohibited the Reagan Administration from establishing a Cuban "Contra" program against the Castro regime. In May 1992, a delegation of Cuban exiles presented President George Bush a petition with 300,000 signatures, asking him to abrogate the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding. Bush turned down their request.

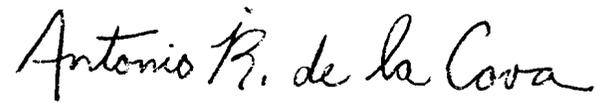
We believe that this anachronistic secret understanding, still kept classified by the Department of State and other federal agencies, should be fully disclosed and abrogated, starting with a House bill under your sponsorship. This would allow Congress and the President to analyze the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding from a modern perspective, with an option to change it by law or executive order.

The Cuban Nationalist Movement believes that we have a legitimate right to pursue the liberation of our homeland and that the Kennedy-Khrushchev understanding is one of various factors that restrict our goals. We want to clearly state that we are not asking the United States for permission to fight--in whatever front--for the freedom of Cuba. However, we consider it our obligation to try to eliminate all the obstacles that have protected Castro's Communist regime.

We also ask you to petition the U.S. Justice Department to convene a Federal grand jury to investigate possible charges of conspiracy to commit murder against Juan Pablo Roque, whose espionage activities led to the premeditated shooting down of two unarmed civilian U.S. planes belonging to Brothers to the Rescue and the deaths of four of their pilots. If an indictment is brought against Roque, the U.S. Justice Department should also ask Cuba for his extradition.

On behalf of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, sincerely,

  
Guillermo Novo Sampil

  
Antonio Rafael de la Cova, Ph.D.