

MAGAZINE

PAZ Y SOBERANÍA

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MOVPAZ IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC



Dear readers:

*The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples sends you the magazine **Paz y Soberanía: El MOVPAZ en tiempos de pandemia (Peace and Sovereignty: MOVPAZ in Times of Pandemic)**. On this occasion, and despite the challenging situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization has continued to work from the social networks in favor of peace.*

The imperialist aggressiveness has not ceased in such difficult times; on the contrary, they have increased the direct threats against countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba; maneuvers that endanger peace in our region and the postulates of the Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean and Zone of Peace.

For that reason, we include in this publication the main statements and actions basically aimed at condemning the aggressions and the opportunistic increase of the blockade against Venezuela and Cuba, and to highlight the solidarity and unity among our peoples.

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STATEMENT OF THE MOVPAZ

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples strongly condemns the most recent warlike escalate undertaken by the President of the United States Donald Trump against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba.

In recent days, precisely when the world endures the blows of the COVID-19 pandemic – the frightening statistics of which as to the number of infected and deceased reveal the vulnerabilities and abysses created by the capitalist model, focused on consumption and economic profit and not on the human beings – **the Yankee imperialism increases its attacks against our nations with the purpose of crushing us and thus achieve its 200-year old pretension of controlling our destiny one way or the other.**

In its effort to achieve said interest (it is not necessary to recall all the aggressions perpetrated against the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean since the formulation of the pernicious Monroe Doctrine in 1823, and even before), the present USA administration has not ceased to become defiant, and particularly against the land of Bolívar and Martí it designs and puts into practice recycled and new stratagems that impact because of their perversity.

The truth is that almost since Trump's arrival to the Oval Office in January, 2017, a wide number of sanctions and all kinds of measures were enforced against both revolutionary processes. Different officials and the President himself do not cease to repeat the same thing: that all the options against Venezuela are on the table, including the military attack, and that they are going to put an end to the socialist Cuba by intensifying as never before the wide network of sanctions that make up the more than 60-year old trade, economic, and financial blockade.

Only a few hours ago the paroxysm of the present White House tenants reached especially dangerous levels for the entire region. The display of naval military forces in zones close to the Bolivarian Republic, and the statement that Cuba and the brotherly South American nation participate in drug traffic, in addition to being an insult not to be allowed by the international community reveals that those falcons' hotheads are plotting any invention and pretext to unleash all their hatred and contempt against us.

Days ago, along that same line, they called the legitimate government headed by Nicolás Maduro drug dealer, to which they added – in the worst Old Western style – that they would pay millionaire sums for any information that would contribute to oust and capture President Maduro and other chavista leaders. Such gangster-like behavior has to be condemned, with full vehemence, by the peace movements in the world.

In the case of Cuba, the Trump administration has enforced over 200 measures with the purpose of crushing the revolution. The Program of Undercover Actions signed on March 17, 1960 by President Dwight Eisenhower, and the Memorandum elaborated by the Assistant Secretary of State Lester Mallory a few days later, on April 6 – bases on which the attack platform represented by the blockade was elaborated and fully outlined by the Proclaim 3447 signed by John F. Kennedy on February 3, 1962 – reappear more violently under the stamp of the main danger to world peace that is undoubtedly President Trump.

From the largest of the Antilles we call upon the most diverse sectors of the universal society to prevent the growth of imperialist greed at a time when the only possible task is to unite in order to stop the horror caused by this coronavirus.

The USA is the country with the highest number of infected and deceased. There is a unanimous opinion that Trump badly managed the situation at the start of this illness, which he described as a plain flu with his characteristic arrogance and not listening to the scientists and experts from his own nation. No one can calculate how many lives could have been saved if, from the beginning, he would have acted with common sense and effectiveness. And if that were not enough, the real estate tycoon just accused the World Health Organization (WHO) and China of causing this pandemic. In fact, Trump's sole concern is how he succeeds in re-installing himself another four years in Washington. Shamefully, it is the election hopes that determine the actions of those who conduct the biggest economic and military power of the planet.

Only hours ago Pope Francis, like numerous personalities and leaders of different religions and political trends expressed from Rome that these **are times to leave behind conflicts and aggressions that endanger the human species.**

The Cuban Movement for Peace, conscious that this is an exceptional moment to foster solidarity among all nations as sole pillar on which to structure effective strategies against this illness, declares likewise that nothing or nobody will be able to destroy the Cuban Socialist Revolution, constructed on profound and unyielding convictions and principles.

Neither our people nor the Venezuelan one will lose sleep or the capacity to found. Each internationalist brigade of the Henry Reeve Brigade, displayed to save lives on any corner of the planet, will be a new and eloquent testimony that we shall overcome.

Havana, April 13, 2020

Statement by MOVPAZ in the Face of the Escalade of Imperialist Aggressions



The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples sets forth its most emphatic condemnation for the warlike escalade that has been taking place in recent weeks against Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Said offensive – evidenced by the numerous actions and measures in practically all spheres – has its origin in the hostile policy practiced by the President of the United States, Donald Trump against several nations and particularly against the peoples of Bolívar and Martí.

The shots fired at the Cuban Embassy in Washington last April 30 and the landing in La Guaira, in the vicinity of Caracas a few hours later of an armed group organized in Colombia with sponsorship and financing of the USA Intelligence Services with the purpose of assassinating Bolivarian leaders and unleashing a *coup d'état* in Venezuela are expressions of the most varied attitudes of the USA war circles.

Particularly shameful is the fact that this demented persecution against Cuba, Venezuela, and also against Nicaragua (they also get hopes up of liquidating the Sandinista Revolution) takes place at a time when humankind is suffering the horrors of a pandemic that daily snatches tens of thousands of lives. The USA government should focus solely in protecting its population in the face of the increase of the infected and mortal victims in that country. These are not times of caves and big guys with sticks in their hands, pretending to intimidate their contemporaries.

The aggressions of the empire and its allies are a threat not only for these countries but for the entire region by endangering the postulates that proclaim Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace.

More than a century ago José Martí taught those of us whose hearts beat from the core of Our America and those from any other geography that a just idea emerged from the bottom of a cave can be stronger than an army. Imbued by that spirit and waving world peace as pillar, the peoples of Cuba and Venezuela will not yield an inch.

**Hands off Cuba!
Hands off Venezuela!**

Havana, May 4, 2020

Global Day of Action in Solidarity with Venezuela

The movements, organizations and individuals raise our voices in solidarity with the Venezuelan people who today are the victims of a brutal siege and criminal sanctions by imperialist powers. Today, April 19, 2020, as the 210th anniversary of the Venezuelan people's cry for independence against the domination of the former Spanish empire is commemorated, we express our firm support for the struggle of the Venezuelan people to preserve this independence and to exercise their right to sovereignty and self-determination.

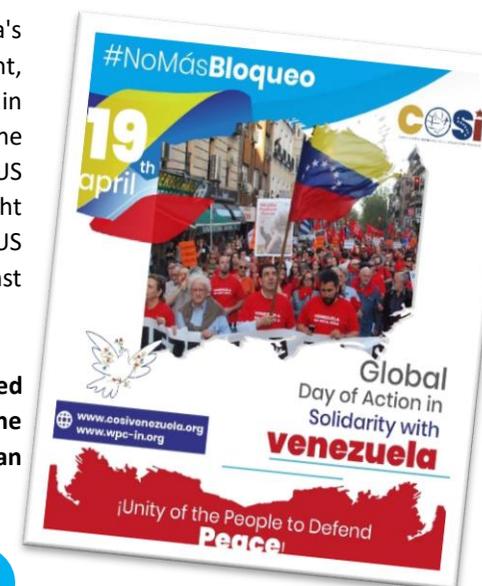
In this regard, we reiterate our energetic repudiation of any attempt to meddle in the internal affairs of the people of Venezuela, as well as all plans drawn up from imperialist powers which look to force a violent change of government in the country. Included in these plans is a recent manoeuvre from the US government with its so-called "Transition Plan for Venezuela," to which its European allies and some South American governments automatically joined.

For this reason, we denounce that maintaining and widening unilateral and extraterritorial coercive measures constitutes a crime against the people of Venezuela. We call for the immediate lifting of the illegal sanctions of the US and European governments against the country. Likewise, we demand the return of financial resources owned by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela illegally held in international banks so that they can be used in the country's pressing needs in the fight against COVID-19 and in the development of the national productive capacity.

Finally, we alert the peoples of the world to the serious threat of military intervention and imperialist war against Venezuela. The US government is looking to prepare a favourable international stage for war in Latin American and the Caribbean.

The US Department of Justice's actions against Venezuela's president and senior officials of the Bolivarian government, the unusual increase in the US military presence in Colombia, the joint US-Colombia military exercises near the Venezuelan border and the recent deployment of the US navy in the Caribbean Sea under the pretext of the fight against drug trafficking are constitute clear evidence of US imperialism's dangerous steps to provoke a war against Venezuela.

We call on the peoples of the world to stop the war-crazed madness of imperialism in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to defend the right of the Venezuelan people to self-determination and peace.





The United States has to answer and must do it now

The Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples makes the most energetic call to all peace organizations worldwide to demand the government of the United States to pronounce itself with regard to the terrorist attack endured by the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba at its venue in Washington last April 30.

It is truly shameful that the authorities of that country have not to this point condemned the criminal action nor supplied the information they possess on the links of the physical author of the 32 shots against that Diplomatic Mission (fired with an AK-47 assault rifle) and several groups of outspoken and prolonged violent actioning against Cuba that operate in Florida and other USA enclaves.

With such actions, the government of the United States fails to abide by the Vienna Convention and multiple treaties endorsed by the International Law that compel the States to provide full guarantees for their work and security conditions for the diplomatic staff accredited in those countries as well as for their relatives.

On the other hand, the “accomplice silence” causing concern, which already extends for more than three weeks reveals the double edge standard employed by that country to judge terrorism, thus encouraging vandalistic groups disseminated and trained throughout its territory to develop similar operations in the future against the largest island of the Antilles and any other nation.

As if the irresponsibility were not enough on top of the impudence and bad conducts, the present USA administration has recently included Cuba in the spurious and discredited list of “countries that do not fully cooperate” with the anti-terrorist efforts, under Section 40 A (a) of the Law on the Export Control of Weapons of that country.

That decision, in addition to the fact that the United States lacks every kind of authority to set itself up as international judge – in addition to its lack of prestige in numerous fields, among them that of Human Rights – is absolutely unsustainable due to the transparent, exemplary position of attachment to the precepts ruling the international norms and legislations maintained by Cuba for decades.

This measure, likewise, seems to be a “pretext” for the upcoming inclusion of Cuba in the list of “countries that sponsor international terrorism”, another arbitrary Yankee monster scheme from which we were excluded in 2015 during the presidential term of Barack Obama after Ronald Reagan had initiated this perverse procedure of introducing us in lists in 1982. We are alerting and denouncing already about this maneuver that is now being lucubrated in diverse corridors and circles of power of Washington.

Neither from Havana nor from any city or town of our geography have terrorist acts been encouraged or organized against the United States or any other country. On the contrary, we have paid the high blood quota represented by the 3,478 mortal victims of hundreds of attacks (among them the explosion of the French ship La Coubre on March 4, 1960 and the bombing of the Cubana de Aviación aircraft flying from Barbados on October 6, 1976, as well as the 580 actions against venues and Cuban diplomatic personnel accredited abroad) and the more than 2,000 human beings who remained disabled as the result of said criminal operations.

“Cuba does not go begging around the world, she goes as a sister”, sentenced José Martí, the Apostle of our independence more than a century ago. Right now, without asking for anything in return, 26 brigades of the Henry Reeve medical contingent are participating in the struggle against the COVID-19 in 24 world countries. They add to other contingents made up by thousands of members of our health professionals who were already working in 59 nations. Something simply extraordinary in times when there is an attempt to globalize threats, extortion and the use of force from the empire. This has been recognized by more than twenty organizations from Europe and other latitudes by proposing that the Henry Reeve Contingent be awarded with the Nobel Prize for Peace.

This region in particular gave a far-reaching step when it adopted the Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace at the Second Summit of the CELAC in January 2014 in the Cuban capital. Nothing and no one can abolish that commitment, which resulted from an intensive debate among governments of dissimilar political tendencies.

The peace movements of the entire world and we, the decent people in general, cannot admit that “accomplice silences” endanger the stability and peace in the hemisphere and the world. The United States has to answer and must do it now.

67º ANIVERSARIO EJECUCIÓN DE LOS ESPOSOS ROSENBERG



(...) hemos comprendido perfectamente que la civilización no ha llegado todavía al punto en el que la vida debe ser salvada por simple amor a la vida (...) Recordaos siempre que nosotros fuimos inocentes y que no pudimos violentar nuestra conciencia..."

The Rosenbergs: 67 Years after Their Execution

By: Georgina Camacho Leyva*

On June 19, 1953, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, shortly before being executed in the electric chair wrote to their children: "... even in this hour when life slowly approaches its end, we believe in this truth with a certainty that makes the executioners fail (...) freedom and everything related to happiness sometimes has to be obtained at a high expense (...) we have perfectly understood that civilization has not yet reached the point where life must be saved simply out of love for life (...) **Always remember that we were innocent and that we could not violate our conscience...**"

Julius and Ethel had been born in the heart of immigrant Jewish families; they grew up and lived in New York. At the moment of their arrest they were 32 and 34 years old, respectively; their children only 7 and 3. They made up a common family; what made them different was their concern for those who had less. She, an office clerk, had joined the feminine section of the union at the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (FAECT) to which her husband belonged; from there she collected funds for orphan children. He, an electric engineer, had been an activist of the League of Young Communists, which served as justification for those who drew up black lists.

In July, 1950, Julius was captured and accused of having recruited David Greenglass (Ethel's brother) to work as a spy for the Russians in late 1944, when serving in the army. In August Ethel was detained and that same month both were accused of having conspired to transmit atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. Interrogated about their activities and ideas, the judge concluded that they were communists.

In early 1951, they were considered guilty of espionage and condemned to death. They were also accused of having responsibility for the USA casualties in the Korean War. David was sentenced to 15 years of prison with possibility of amnesty; 13 years later he confessed that he had been obliged to sign a statement and the accusation he made against the Rosenbergs was false. In October, 1951, Julius wrote to Ethel: **"...we are here because we have not agreed to submit ourselves."**

In the spring of 1952 they appealed to the Supreme Court, which after the summer refused to review the case. Previously they had addressed the District Court of Appeals. With regard to these actions, in September and October he wrote in his letters: "... if we did not obtain an impartial trial, it was due to the conduct of the judge and the district attorney. Particularly the verdict of the Court of Appeals was a corrupt decision against the legal precedents and the constitutional guarantees of the civil rights (...). I realize that our road is becoming ever more difficult, since every legal defense has been denied to us..."

Many people became aware of the political nature of what was taking place. They thought an injustice had been made, and therefore organized supporting committees beyond the national territory.

Almost at the end of 1952 they sent a petition of clemency to the White House signed by thousands of citizens, among them the eminent physicist Albert Einstein and the atom expert Harold C. Urey. Local and foreign newspapers joined the demand for justice. **Beyond the USA, millions of people implored; even Pope Pius XII sent a message to the Department of Justice.**

Nevertheless, in the early months of 1953 President Dwight Eisenhower denied the clemency, and although his attitude was internationally criticized, the execution date was appointed. The defense lawyers insisted before the Supreme Court in their request to review the case, but once more it was denied.

The United States, once the Second World War was over, broke the anti-fascist alliance and started a strong confrontation with the socialist countries called Cold War, with support of what Washington called 'necessary lies' in the face of their world hegemony. It was a period of extreme rightist policies in which communism was pictured as a threat for the families and for personal development.

In February, 1950, US Republican Senator Joseph McCarthy launched a public accusation against alleged communists infiltrated in the State Department, which was followed by a long process of groundless denunciations and irregular trials against numerous, apparently suspicious individuals.

In his letters, Julius wrote to Ethel in July, 1951: "Some politicians may be using our case to frighten liberal and progressive people, but we are discovering this complot, and we are not alone."

"What have we done to deserve so much unhappiness? We have led an honest and constructive life." She wrote those words in anguish to her husband after the first eleven weeks of separation from her children, which shortly thereafter were transferred to an adoption refuge for some time.

Later, Michael and Robert Rosenberg, still small children, remained hours in front of the White House railing bearing a letter in which they asked the President to commute the death sentence against their parents, but their sadness and confusion did not succeed in moving the barbarians.

These days, China has declared that USA political forces are pushing both countries to a new Cold War due to conspiracies and lies about the Covid-19 pandemic. In turn, President Donald Trump has praised ultra-rightist groups that have made pronouncements against the measures to stop the new Corona virus applied in regions of that northern country; some even carried racist and fascist symbols.

Last May 25, in an episode of police violence, an agent suffocated the African American George Floyd until causing his death, which has originated mass protests, not only in the United States, that have been violently suppressed.

The head of the White House blames anti-fascist groups called Antifa for the rallies, calling them extreme leftist criminals, and announces that they will be included as terrorists in the black list. Likewise, he considers that the press fosters hatred and anarchy, a criterion that has led to aggressions to more than 100 journalists in recent weeks.

After 67 years the country has not changed much. On June 18, 1953, the Rosenbergs stated: **"...For peace, bread and a more beautiful life with full dignity, we face the executioners with courage and confidence in the future..."**

*Journalist and collaborator of MOVPAZ



41st ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDINISTA POPULAR REVOLUTION

On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinista Popular Revolution, the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) and the Regional Coordination for the Americas and the Caribbean of the World Peace Council (WPC) transmitted their most sincere and brotherly congratulations to the top leadership of the Sandinista Front National Liberation Party and the Government of Nicaragua, headed by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

The Sandinista victory against the cruel tyranny of Somoza that for years brought mourning and impoverishment to that brotherly nation was a great contribution to the liberation struggle of the peoples of our America, and still today continues to be an inspiring paradigm for the struggle of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples, in the conquest of the highest ideals of independence, sovereignty, and social justice.

Those were the ideals that made the revolutionary Sandinista vanguard headed by Carlos Fonseca Amador face the dictatorship with determination and organize the revolutionary armed epic that led to the triumph of July 19, 1979 and the beginning of the revolutionary process, worthily conducted by Commander Daniel Ortega next to other illustrious continuators of Sandino's example.

For years, USA imperialism has employed numberless subversive and meddling methods to destroy the Nicaraguan Revolution and to try to revert the great advances achieved in diverse economic and social fronts; and has always failed thanks to the unity of the people around the leadership of the FSLN and President Daniel Ortega.

On a new anniversary of such glorious epic, **we appreciate with satisfaction and joy the high level of the political and collaboration links that exist between the parties, governments, and peoples of Cuba and Nicaragua, and the unceasing strengthening of the mutual coordination in the common struggle against imperialism and neo-liberalism and in favor of the regional integration and peace, in strict abidance by the postulates of the Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace.**



NICARAGUA

On such a significant date, we send our brotherly and revolutionary greetings of peace to all the Nicaraguan brothers

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Hiroshima and Nagasaki:

75th Anniversary of the Dreadful Atomic Crime



By: Dr. Leyde E. Rodríguez Hernández *

This year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of a dreadful crime: the use, for the first time in the history of humankind, of the atomic weapon against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

With our consequent commitment in favor of peace, we recall the event because it is impossible to forget the genocide of August 6 and 9, 1945, when the USA air force deliberately launched the nuclear fire that reduced the peaceful Hiroshima to ashes, instantly burning to death more than 25,000 people. And a few days later, as if nothing had happened the same action of State terrorism was repeated against the neighboring city of Nagasaki with a balance of more than 13,000 victims. The calculations vary widely among the diverse sources, but it is believed that between 150,000 and 250,000 people died as a direct result of both events.

In the subsequent period, the sequels of nuclear radiation caused a slow agony among the local population. Year after year more than 330,000 people suffered the mortal illnesses produced by the atomic cloud.

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The scientific data and anecdotes of survivors of the holocaust agree that the launching of the explosive artifact by the USA bomber (ironically named Little Boy) in Hiroshima – a region of military importance for the Japanese army – immediately rarefied the atmosphere with radiations that reached 300,000 degrees Celsius, a temperature ten times higher than the one produced by the sun.

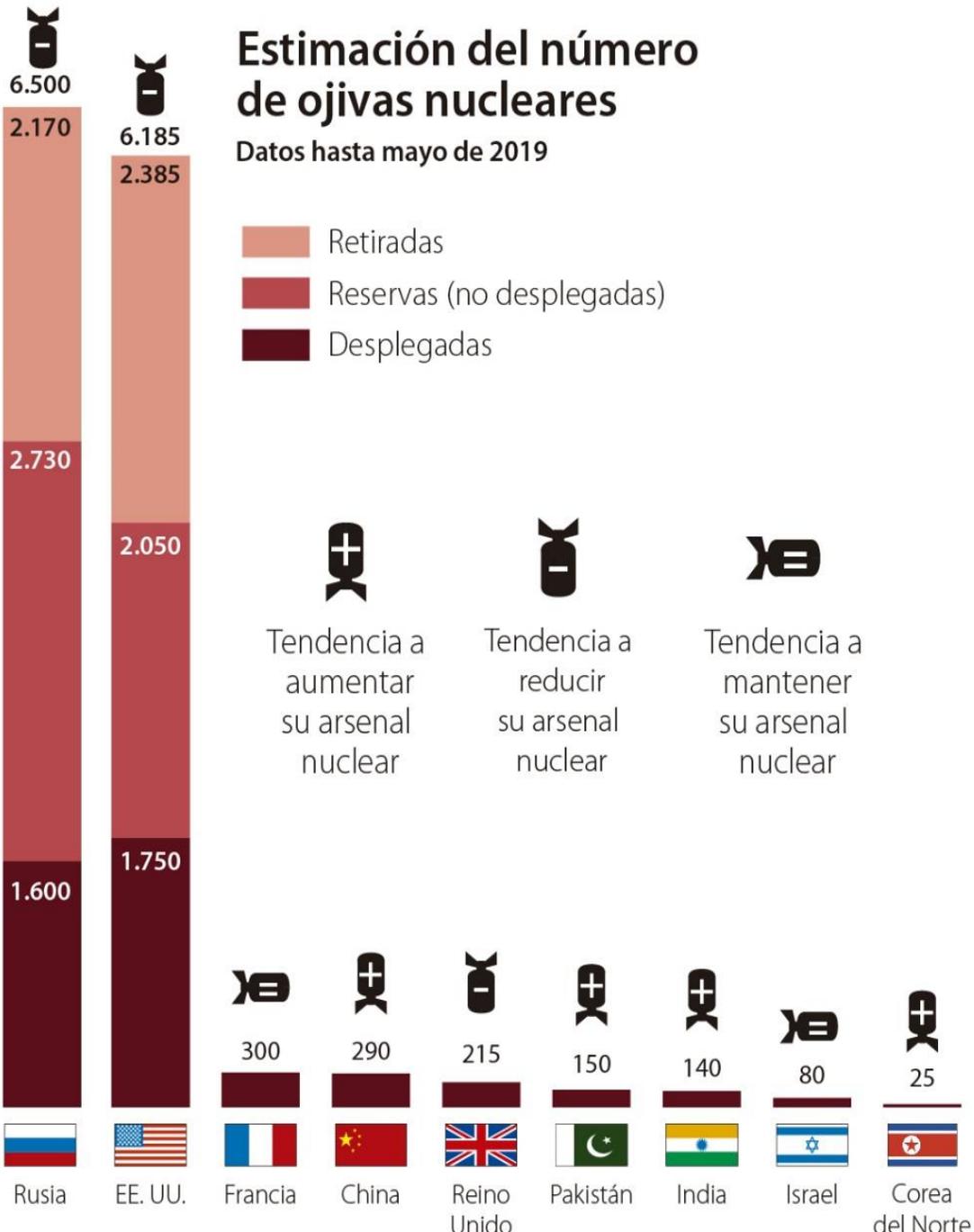
And in a radius of approximately one kilometer from the place of the explosion the bodies were stamped against the ground like fossils on a burning carpet while the desperate survivors tried to drink water, but the precious liquid was contaminated by the warm, viscose rain loaded with radioactive material. On each anniversary, the Japanese and the reasonable humankind recall this overwhelming episode by keeping one minute of silence, perceived as endless, in all latitudes from East to West.

The historical balance of that crime of lesser humanity shows that the bombing against Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not really aimed against Japan. The people of the archipelago contributed the human and material losses, but the inexorable movement of international politics evidenced the true purpose of the so-called “nuclear blackmail diplomacy” led by the President of the United States Harry Truman. Its objective had been calculated and consisted in intimidating the Soviet Union, since the first socialist State in the world had played a leading, we could say essential role in the victory over fascism in Europe and was to become one of the main superpowers of the 20th century international system.

When we evoke Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the past takes us by the hand to a present that remains threatened by the approximate existence of 13,400 nuclear warheads owned by nine countries. The data, published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in early 2020 also showed that the United States and Russia have more than 90% of those weapons, and that compared to the almost 70,000 warheads of the Cold War period in the 1980s, the present ones are only one fifth in number, but sufficient to destroy many times the planet Earth and cause a definitive global climatic change.

In addition to that huge destructive power are the devastating armed conflicts between diverse nations and among factions inside them, which continue in midst of a global Covid-19 pandemic in pursuit of mean geopolitical interests and political-military domination, which prevent a global ceasefire and could cause the outbreak of a war with nuclear weapons. Can you imagine?

Therefore, **the present times are characterized by the existence of huge threats to international peace and security. The nuclear weapon is the main threat and incorporates an element of force to the foreign politics of the great powers, preventing the democratic transformation of international relations.**



The United States, the same superpower that has imposed the longest, illegal, and unjust economic, commercial, and financial blockade upon the Cuban people causing huge human damage, have displayed intense political activity and propaganda to destroy multilateralism in the international relations. With its devastating policies, the Donald Trump administration has dismantled the system of international treaties and agreements that served as foundation for the construction of international security after World War II.

In correspondence with that militaristic and unilateral orientation, it resigned its responsibilities to the Medium and Short Scope Nuclear Arms Treaty (INF, its English acronym) in 2019, and the nuclear agreement with Iran signed by five powers, called Group 5 + 1; and continues to carry on the expansion to the east of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and of the USA anti-missile system to the Russian frontiers.

That dangerous situation does not surprise well-informed people. It is well-known that the United States are the main promoters of the improvement of nuclear weapons, and of the militarization of cyberspace and the outer space. The development of the nuclear weapon and the disarmament process among the great powers has been accompanied by the new technological advances in the sphere of military strategy. Today's nuclear weapons are much more sophisticated than the ones launched over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The "Revision of the Nuclear Posture" adopted by the government of Donald Trump left the door open for the use of the USA nuclear arsenal. The pretended greatness of the United States is compared to the power of its nuclear weapons. Such an aberration and immorality not only aim at the permanence of a structure of international nuclear system, but also encourage the development of a world power distribution based on nuclear proliferation or the veto by creating the unity of the actors with the greatest military power obtained from the nuclear weapon.

The nuclear weapons and the so-called anti-missile defense systems today are a serious threat to the stability and international security, because they encourage the arms race and the increase of the military budgets. The struggle to forbid and totally eliminate them should be the top priority in the sphere of disarmament. The sole absolute guarantee of avoiding the repetition of the cruel experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lies in the total abolition of nuclear weapons, considering that they make up the most dangerous and destructive panoply, with the greatest number of indiscriminate effects among all existing war means.

The militaristic concepts of the United States attempt to justify the use of nuclear weapons in the "nuclear dissuasion strategy" and in the false belief that it could deal a "first nuclear blow" with impunity to other rival powers.

The United States, the same superpower that has imposed the longest, illegal, and unjust economic, commercial, and financial blockade upon the Cuban people causing huge human damage, have displayed intense political activity and propaganda to destroy multilateralism in the international relations. With its devastating policies, the Donald Trump administration has dismantled the system of international treaties and agreements that served as foundation for the construction of international security after World War II.

Because of its catastrophic humanitarian consequences, the use of nuclear weapons would involve the flagrant violation of international norms, including those related to the prevention of genocide and the environmental protection.

The use of nuclear weapons is a war crime. It is not possible to limit the devastating effects of those weapons, because they last decades. The nuclear weapon is an insult to the ethical and moral principles that should rule the relations among nations, but in addition, a nuclear conflict would mean the extinction of human civilization. Hence the importance of stimulating activism of the international public opinion in favor of disarmament and particularly of the total abolition of nuclear weapons. This vindication is not just a duty but also a legitimate right of the peoples.

The maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons consumes excessive resources that could and should be destined to the economic development, the creation of jobs, the reduction of poverty and hunger, the solution of sanitary problems, the eradication of illiteracy, and the prevention and facing of natural disasters caused by the global climate change. Those resources should be urgently redirected to the fulfillment of the Objectives of Sustainable Development contained in the 2030 Agenda, and to the combat against the COVID-19 pandemic that scourges humankind.

LOS EJÉRCITOS 2020

	Presupuesto de Defensa:	Miembros activos:	Número total de aeronaves:	Número de tanques:	Fuerza naval total:
1. EE.UU.	750.000.000.000\$	1.400.000	13.264	6.289	490
2. Rusia	48.000.000.000\$	1.013.628	4.163	12.950	603
3. China	237.000.000.000\$	2.693.000	3.210	3.500	777
4. India	61.000.000.000\$	1.444.000	2.123	4.292	285
5. Japón	49.000.000.000\$	247.160	1.561	1.004	155
6. Corea del Sur	44.000.000.000\$	580.000	1.649	2.614	234
7. Francia	41.500.000.000\$	268.000	1.229	528	180
8. Reino Unido	55.100.000.000\$	192.660	733	227	88
9. Egipto	11.200.000.000\$	440.000	1.054	4.295	316
10. Brasil	27.800.000.000\$	334.500	715	437	112

FUENTE: GLOBAL FIREPOWER

In the face of that reality, it should be recalled that Latin America and the Caribbean was the first densely inhabited world region to be established as a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons by virtue of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. And it is the first region to have been formally proclaimed as “Zone of Peace” during the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana, Cuba in January, 2014. The proclamation of the Zone of Peace includes the commitment of all states in the region to advance toward nuclear disarmament as prioritized objective and to contribute to the general and full disarmament.

The approval of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations Organization (UN) on July 7, 2017 was a historical milestone that must be defended by peace-loving states and peoples. This instrument establishes a new norm of International Law by forbidding nuclear weapons under all circumstances.

75 years after the criminal atomic bombing against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are convinced in our Movement that a world of peace and without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary for the preservation of our species. To achieve it, as stated by the founder of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz, “a leap in the conscience of humankind is essential”.

Let us build a multipolar international system free of nuclear weapons, whose power levels abandon the military element and focus on scientific knowledge and the infinite possibilities of human improvement. Only so could the peace agenda move forward in solidarity, cooperation, and respect to the peoples’ sovereignty.

Let us defend unceasingly the right to life in its harmony with nature, our Mother Earth.

* Dr. Leyde E. Rodríguez Hernández Collaborator of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)

