

# PAZ Y SOBERANÍA

Órgano del Movimiento Cubano por la Paz  
y la Soberanía de los Pueblos

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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# VI SEMINARIO

INTERNACIONAL  
POR LA PAZ  
Y LA ABOLICIÓN  
DE LAS BASES  
MILITARES EXTRANJERAS



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Dear friends:

The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) presents to you a **Special Supplement** of the magazine "Peace and Sovereignty", dedicated to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases, held on May 4-6, 2019 in Guantánamo, Cuba.

This Supplement is the selection of addresses and papers presented by several delegates from different organizations that attended the event.

For obvious reasons of space, it was not possible to include all the works presented at the Seminar, which will be included in our blog and in the following editions of the magazine. We apologize for this.

At the same time we express our most sincere acknowledgment to all the participants and lecturers in this 6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases.

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## SPECIAL INTERVENTION

By Socorro Gomes

It is a pleasure to be with you in this revolutionary country and in this resistant Guantánamo, to celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases. I wish to greet especially the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ), represented by its President, comrade Silvio Platero, coordinator of the Region of America of the World Peace Council; also the comrades from the Cuban Institute of Friendship among the Peoples (ICAP) and remaining Cuban organizations that committed themselves to ensure our meeting here.

I also greet those who have come from all parts of the planet to reinforce once again our joint struggle against the militarization of the world and in favor of peace.

We gather here at a moment of increased challenges posed to the brave Cuban people, which faces already six decades the criminal blockade of the United States and bravely struggles in defense of its sovereignty and its revolutionary process, consolidating the popular and national emancipation. Days ago, the USA government intensified its imperialist and criminal siege to Cuba precisely because its people and its leadership are resisting.

The government of the United States of America, isolated because of that measure, activates the detrimental third clause of the 1996 Helms-Burton Act to tighten the tourniquet and attempt to suffocate a rebellious nation.

But the Cuban people already gave signs that it will not submit! It not only resists the siege already six decades but dares raise its voice and action in vindication for the return of the usurped territory of Guantánamo, where the United States shows total contempt for international norms and the essential principles of international relations.

For that reason, the peace movement and the democratic and progressive forces from the entire world unite decidedly to the Cuban people in support of their struggle for national sovereignty and the continuation of its revolution.

Comrades,

From Guantánamo we make a call, and it couldn't be other than worldwide. From this revolutionary territory we send our support to the peoples that struggle for their sovereignty in the face of forces that appear to be enormous, but which we face together in favor of peace, in solidarity and brotherhood in the face of the ignominy of war, domination, exploitation, and oppression.

The peoples struggle for a more just international order, of equality among nations, where the pillars for a world of peace, friendship and international solidarity may be maintained and consolidated. These principles are contained in the Charter of the United Nations, but the world powers always look for pretexts to make them relative and endanger the national sovereignties of the so-called developing countries, and not their own first world sovereignties.

From Cuban territory we reiterate the denounce and promote campaigns for the definitive abolition of foreign military bases, advance posts of the USA and other powers grouped in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that threaten the planet day after day.

We have denounced that the dissemination of foreign military bases worldwide is a source of instability, insecurity and conflicts as well as an offense to the peoples and nations committed with the construction of an international order based on the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in the domestic affairs of each country.

Although a large number of bases are established with consent from servile governments by agreement or under threat, the peoples have the right to exercise sovereignty over their territory and demand, as they have done, from Okinawa to Buenos Aires, Cyprus, and other places, the withdrawal of these advance posts.

But the imperialists act as occupants, proprietors of conquered or usurped lands, an inadmissible standpoint that should be repudiated!

It is never excessive to state and reinforce the demand: there are more than 1,000 military bases scattered throughout the planet; almost 800 of them are from the USA, among various installations and properly bases, in a distortion of terms with which the United States seeks to distract those who dare monitor them. Only in Latin America and the Caribbean there are nearly 80 military bases, with Panama, Colombia, and Peru among the countries most occupied by the USA posts. They are true platforms of military offensive of the empire, strategically established to threaten the entire continent, still menaced by the South Commando of the USA army, its Fourth Naval Fleet that patrols our seas, and, of course, the servitude of allied governments, established through coups, destabilization or meddling endorsement, to knock down or try to disarticulate progressive forces and patriotic governments.

Ever since Mauricio Macri took up his post we denounced how he promptly offered his people's territory for the installation of more USA bases. In Brazil, a reactionary and proto-Fascist president naturally also allies himself to the empire, ready to serve it, even indicating his personal anxiety to see USA boots in the country and taking sides with the offensive position of the putsch forces in Venezuela to attack the legitimate government of President Nicolás Maduro in a scandalous and aggressive meddling.

In 2018, the South Commando of the United States divulged its strategy for the next decade, classifying varied issues as "threats" in order to justify its meddling projection, as in the case of NATO. Naturally, Cuba, Venezuela and Bolivia are the version of the Latin American and Caribbean "axes of evil" in the policeman and imperialist concept of this ideological program. Pretexts such as the struggle against drug traffic and criminal organizations of an intentionally vague concept are common. As we know, allied to anti-democratic and anti-popular governments, such concepts serve to validate the persecution of social and popular movements and to ensure the military presence of the USA in the region, as well as the militarization of the national policy in countries like Colombia, with disastrous consequences for the population.

The United States is worried about the alliance of Latin American and Caribbean governments with China and Russia, in anachronistic revival of the cold war that so much suffering has brought to the peoples that have been victims of bloody coups to install military regimes of long lasting echoes.

The USA bases, together with other methods, continue to serve destabilization and constant monitoring, true platforms of media and cybernetic war that have so greatly shaken the country, deeply influencing the crises and local political courses.

Likewise, we have denounced the dissemination of bases and war maneuvers in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe, from where the members of NATO, the imperialist war machine, launch their offensives against diverse nations, violating International Law, to knock down sovereign governments or to consolidate their influence, devastating entire countries. The bases and the political-military alliance serve to maintain neo-colonialism and the imperialist agenda with catastrophic repercussions, in favor of the domination of world powers over the energy resources pillaged from sovereign nations and the vigilance of the strategic routes to maintain control on the supplies of the international market at the expense of the peoples' suffering.

Meanwhile, the planet's militarization and the arms race continue ahead with gigantic steps. Every year we see the growth of the military budgets of the imperialist powers. In addition to the huge sum of resources spent in the promotion of war and threats to the whole humankind, the discrepancy is alarming: while it claims to be defending itself from external threats and rival powers, the United States appears as the main offensive force in the planet. In 2017, NATO members spent \$900 thousand million in the military sector – 52% of the world expenditure of \$ 1,739 billion – which equals 2.2% of the global GDP. But alone the United States spent nearly \$610 thousand million in 2017, according to the International Research Institute for Peace of Stockholm (Sipri), and some \$700 thousand million in 2018, according to NATO. Such trend is discouraging, and our rejection to this race must be reinforced!

Comrades,

The World Peace Council will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Just as during the period of the international conferences that promoted the organization of our world movement by brave anti-Fascist resistance fighters, men and women in favor of peace after the catastrophe of World War II, our struggle is not just profoundly current but ever more urgent.

Several points of the planet experience the intensification of tensions of extremely serious scale, and the imperialist powers, championed by the USA and its local allies – servile or reactionary and autocratic administrations – are the main responsible for the crossroads in which we find ourselves.

Examples abound that show the power of our unity and convergence to stop the announced catastrophe. New campaigns and initiatives already in existence should be reinforced in this period, sustained above all by an extent worthy of the scope of our challenge. In addition to our recurrent meeting in Guantánamo in this successful seminar organized by MOVPAZ and ICAP in association with the World Peace Council, last year we joined the global campaign against the USA and NATO military bases, which received an impulse following the successful conference of the coalition of USA entities against these same bases, celebrated in the United States.

We met at Dublin in November to conform the amplitude we have been searching. The convergence of our wishes and our commitment to peace, sovereignty and freedom of the nations above everything became evident there! The same has been clear from the successive actions we carried out, also with amplitude, in each capital of NATO, that imperialist war machine, to demand its end now!

And from these and other examples we draw the conviction that together we come forward. That is why I celebrate once more the commitment and dedication of all the comrades involved in the organization of our important meeting and of those who are here to participate, convinced that we will strengthen our unity in the struggle for the sovereignty of nations and peace!

**End foreign military bases! Return the territory of Guantánamo, seized by the USA, and end the blockade to Cuba now! Long live the solidarity among the peoples and the struggle for peace!**

Thank you.

## SPECIAL INTERVENTION

**By Victor Gaute**

Dear comrade Socorro Gomes, President of the World Peace Council;

Dear comrades of the World Peace Council and of its member organizations;

Representatives of other peace and anti-war organizations from all continents, present in the Seminar;

Comrade Fernando González, anti-terrorist fighter, Hero of the Republic of Cuba and President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples;

Leading Party and Government authorities of the hospitable and heroic province of Guantánamo;

Sisters and brothers, fellow countrymen:

It is a privilege to convey to you the brotherly greeting of our Party and Government leadership, to welcome you most cordially to this Cuban province east of the country, cradle of heroes and example of dignity and courage in the face of the affront caused by the illegal occupation of a part of our territory by the United States Naval Base. Guantánamo is and will continue to be Cuba's first anti-imperialist trench until we restore the sovereignty over this entire territory.



Many of you have participated in the five previous editions of this event, which shows the importance you grant to it as a space of denounce of the more than 800 military bases set up by the U.S.A. imperialism and its NATO allies throughout the world as instruments of threat, intervention and meddling of all kinds against the countries and regions where they have been established.

From this tribune we welcome the World Peace Council the leaders headed by its President, comrade Socorro Gomes, who accompanies us not only with her presence but also with her indisputable leadership in the worldwide struggle for the noble cause of Peace.

Dear comrades:

The Seminar is taking place at a complex moment of the international situation, full of dangers and threats derived from the warlike and interventionist policies of the present government of the United States and its allies in different parts of the world, with the clear purpose of imposing at all costs its perverse policies and unipolar and hegemonic vision.

Lies are the distinctive seal of this ever more discredited and isolated administration, that pretends in this way to return to the worst moments of the cold war.

With that purpose they insist on destabilizing the situation in the Middle East with their interventions in Syria, their unconditional support to Israel's genocidal policies against the Palestinian people, and their systematic and increased sanctions against Iran.

At the same time, they act provocatively against Russia and China, unleashing a commercial war that affects third nations and the normal development of the national economies.

President Trump's administration has been withdrawing the United States from agreements and negotiations that pursue the establishment of a climate of cooperation and peace in important themes for humankind such as the climatic change and the agreements with Russia on the restriction of middle-range missiles and the 5 + 1Treaty with Iran, just to mention a few.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the current policy of the United States government pretends to resuscitate the insulting Monroe Doctrine, which justifies the intervention in our countries to defend what they call their security interests in the region.

What they truly pretend is to restore the defeated neo-liberalism, install governments akin to their interests, and continue plundering our national riches.

The imperialists insist in pushing back the progressive processes of wide popular support that have occurred in the last two decades in our Latin American region, which have created expectations among the humblest populations for the first time along 200 years of independence struggles. With this purpose they encourage the political persecution of regional leaders like Rafael Correa and Cristina Fernández, corrupting the judicial power to achieve their infamous purposes.

Following an unjust trial characterized by the manipulation and once more the lies, comrade Lula was sentenced to prison, thus preventing his sure electoral victory. That was the result of a conspiracy among the Brazilian oligarchy, its corrupt judicial system, the transnational media power, and the U.S.A. imperialism, determined to bring back the country to the neocolonial past. As a consequence, Brazil has experienced an important setback in social justice with the rise to power of the present administration of Jair Bolsonaro.

It is now the turn for us, revolutionaries from all over the world, to struggle for his freedom, with the conviction that we will achieve it and that Lula will be free, for the good of Brazil and of Our America.

In Venezuela, the Yankee imperialism has concentrated all its perversity, which stems from the reactionary sectors that have taken control of the policy of the present U.S.A. administration toward Latin America, fueling that country's unpatriotic rightist forces with support of the lackey governments in the region and of the discredited and irresponsible General Secretary of the Organization of American States, waging with full intensity a dirty war with the declared purpose of overthrowing the constitutional president Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Coup attempts, attacks to the electric power system, scarcities caused from abroad and an unprecedented media war are some of the forms of this imperial aggression. They intervene by stealing all kinds of resources, including confiscation in third countries of millions of dollars that belong to the nation. To support the Bolivarian and *Chavista* revolution in this complex hour is an inalienable position for the revolutionaries of Cuba and all latitudes.

At the same time there is an increase in the aggressive policy of the Trump administration against the fatherland of Sandino. Its most visible expressions are the economic sanctions and the encouragement to the violent opposition.

We appeal to the international solidarity, and to support the efforts in favor of dialogue, harmony, and peace for all Nicaraguans that are being carried out by the government of national reconciliation headed by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

With regard to Cuba – a nation and a people that are not forgiven for having established 60 years ago a socialist system of social justice and wide popular participation sustained on the principles of inalienable defense of their independence and sovereignty – the government of President Trump has decided to reinforce the economic blockade with the application of Title III of the insulting and genocidal Helms-Burton Act. These gentlemen are to know that Cuba will not be crushed, nor will they prevent our development with their policies, their laws in violation of International Law and their State terrorism. Many of you had the possibility to attend the massive gathering of our people last May 1, which is a convincing answer in support of socialism and the Revolution.

There are no doubts that the world is submitted to the strong pressures of imperialism and that serious risks and challenges exist against peace in the planet and the survival of humankind. That is why all peace loving peoples must unite. Unity is the imperative to face the unbridled appetites of imperialism, which in its agonizing existence attempts to preserve its privileges.

The Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace adopted by the Heads of State and Government of our region in Havana during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is today in full power; therefore, it is essential that our peoples mobilize in defense of the right to live in peace with economic progress, social justice, independence, and sovereignty.

That is the challenge, and we are convinced that important decisions and actions will be agreed upon in your deliberations and debates during the Seminar for the achievement of such anti-imperialist and anti-war objectives.

I should not end these brief words without thanking you again for your permanent solidarity with the Cuban Revolution. Commander Chávez used to say, "Love is returned with love." This land of Martí and Fidel once more welcomes you. No matter how difficult the circumstances may be, our vocation is to fight with our best weapons: truth, morals, justice, and reason.

Until victory forever.



## THE IMPERIALIST PLAN AGAINST VENEZUELA: MILITARY BASES AT THE SERVICE OF RECOMPOSING DOMINATION IN LATIN AMERICA

**By Gabriel Aguirre**

Dear friends and comrades from the solidarity and peace organizations in the world,

On behalf of the Committee of International Solidarity and Struggle for Peace (COSI) of Venezuela, we wish to thank for the invitation to this 6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar against Foreign Military Bases convoked by the World Peace Council, and organized and promoted by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Solidarity with the Peoples, to which we thank for the hospitality they have granted to all the delegations that today are attending this important event.

We have arrived from our country to take part in this Seminar in a context of strengthening of the contradictions and the aggression of the USA and European imperialist forces, which have started a many-sided plan with the sole purpose of recomposing their domination spheres in what they consider to be their backyard, sustained by the Monroe Doctrine and the Manifest Destiny under the principle of control of their vital and effective space, for the control of resources, forms of energy, and dominion over the labor force.

The great financial capital and the military industrial complex of the USA consider Latin America as their strategic rearguard, which must be submitted and re-colonized without resistance from the peoples, to start up their plans of dominion and control of the world. These are the main reasons for the USA military display in the region, which has as central point the reinforcement and extension of the USA and NATO military bases.

Latin America concentrates important strategic energetic, mineral, aquiferous, and bio-diverse resources. Bolivia has 97% of the world reserves of lithium, a mineral that is an alternative source of energy. In the Amazonia is the main reservoir of bio-diversity. The Guarani aquifer is the largest reserve of subterranean water. Sixty-three of the 95 minerals imported by the United States are found in this region of the world.

Venezuela has the largest proved reserve of oil in the world: 350,000 million barrels of petroleum; the main certified reserve of gold; the fifth world reserve of gas, without mentioning the huge mineral resources in our nation. This has been the main reason why the USA imperialism, following its defeat in 1998 and with the triumph of the popular and democratic forces with President Hugo Chávez, has unleashed one of the most aggressive campaigns against Venezuela in the political, economic and military fields.

The USA military presence in our territory prior to 1999 was expressed in the existence of an office for military affairs of the United States Army at the Ministry of Defense of Venezuela. Likewise, the United States sold military equipment to Venezuela, and specifically in aviation Venezuela authorized the flights of F-16 aircraft in the country but only with approval of the USA Department of Defense. As part of this meddling military presence in our country, the USA Central Intelligence Agency had an office in the presidential palace that operated as intelligence and espionage center to ensure control of the political power in Venezuela. All these facts were denounced by President Hugo Chávez, thus producing an immediate advance in the recovery of our sovereignty.

Today, the actions against Venezuela have become ever more dangerous. The reinforcement of the USA military presence south of the continent through the Southern Command and the reactivation and strategic mobilization of the Fourth and Fifth Fleets, added to the displacement of special forces of the USA Armed using the seven USA military bases in Colombia (country where the USA can discretionally utilize the totality of Colombia's military installations when deemed

To this complex situation we must add the induction of Colombia as a member of NATO, with the agreement that this imperialist alliance will participate with military support to Colombia in case of the latter being involved in a conflict. This event represents one of the greatest risks to the security of our country, since Venezuela shares borders with Caribbean islands that are territories of the European member countries of this genocidal and murderous organization, which recently celebrated 70 years of wars, deaths, and suffering against peoples that defend their sovereignty, independence, and self-determination.

Comrades:

Our delegation from Venezuela has attended this Seminar in midst of difficult circumstances. As some of you are aware of, last April 30 the USA and European imperialism, together with the Venezuelan pro-imperialist rightist forces, attempted to launch a coup d'état against our people and turn our nation into a spiral of violence. The purpose was to unleash a civil war, seize power de facto in Venezuela, and liquidate the people's conquests. We denounce the attack against the Venezuelan oil industry and the Bolivarian National Armed Force.

In addition to these actions, imperialism has intensified in recent months the financial, economic and commercial blockade against Venezuela that has produced losses of nearly 50,000 million dollars by freezing the nation's bank accounts, and making it impossible to perform international financial transactions for the purchase of food and medicine destined to fulfill the needs of the Venezuelan people. They are criminal actions that, in the same way in which they have done against Cuba for over 50 years, today they enforce against Venezuela; that is why we convoke to an international campaign to reject the blockade against Venezuela and Cuba that denounces the genocidal nature of these actions.

From the movement of solidarity and struggle for peace, we have the responsibility to continue strengthening the solidarity with all the peoples that face the imperialist barbarity, struggle against their wars, resist domination and defend their inalienable right to live in a world of peace with social justice. Because being at your side is also strengthening the solidarity with our people, which today resists stoically, bravely, and which is not willing to cede even one millimeter in its just fight for the independence and national liberation.

From COSI, we have absolutely no doubt that today the peace of Venezuela and of our region is threatened, and that, as proclaimed by the Partisan Peace Congress in Paris, 1949 that gave birth to the World Peace Council now celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, "the United States is still the main promoter of imperialist wars in the world."

From our organizations that fight for peace and international solidarity, we reject the existence of the military bases abroad. For that reason, on behalf of the Committee of International Solidarity (COSI), we raise our voice and join our efforts to demand the abolition of the Yankee military base of Guantánamo, and the return of the territory that belongs only to the Cuban people and its Revolution. The permanence of the United States in Guantánamo is an offense against all the peoples such as ours that raise the banners of peace. We reject the Helms Burton as an extra-territorial act that violates all international agreements and the international right of the peoples to self-determination. We join the Cuban brothers and sisters in saying that "We do not understand each other with the Helms Burton Act!"

Comrades:

Today we have the task to march coordinately in a campaign against the presence of foreign military bases; to mobilize every February 23 in protests in front of the military bases in our territories; to continue strengthening this Seminar as space to increase the levels of consciousness of the threat represented by the military bases.

Finally, we wish to ratify our disposal for the internationalist struggle, for peace, solidarity, and social justice, defending Cuba from its detractors, denouncing the criminal blockade, demanding the end of the Guantánamo military base, and recognizing Cuba's untiring struggle for Peace.

Long live the Cuban Movement for Peace!

Long live the struggle of our peoples!

Down with the blockade!

## THE MILITARY PRESENCE ABROAD OF THE MAJOR IMPERIALIST POWERS IS A THREAT TO PEACE

By Dr.C. Manuel Carbonell Vidal

The theme that today concentrates our attention endured important changes after the administration of President Donald Trump came to power in the United States, first military power in the world. What had formerly been an exception is now a rule that completely broke the historical continuity observed in recent decades when, except on rare occasions, there were no significant quantitative jumps of the military presence in times of apparent peace, unless masked displacements of large troop groups connected with the prelude or beginning of an armed conflict took place, which may occur at any moment.

The first strategic planning document published by the present Government clearly laid out the objectives and purposes. The National Security Strategy of the United States from December, 2017, defines four main pillars:

- **To protect the people of the United States, the national territory and the American way of life**
- **To promote the prosperity of America**
- **To preserve peace through war; the military forces will be reconstructed,** which means that all the tools of the art of governing (including the diplomatic and military) will be used to protect the interests, and it will be ensured that power balance will be maintained in key regions: **Indo-Pacific, Europe, and Mittle East.**
- **To promote the influence of the USA,** which includes: strengthening the influence abroad, achievement of better bilateral and multilateral results; search of alliances with similar states; defense of the State of Law and external policy sustained by the motto "America First".

However, it is already evident that the circles of the political-military power of that country moved from the Middle East to the **Latin American and Caribbean region**, essentially focusing on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. Evidence of it is that only three weeks ago a closed round table entitled "Evaluating the Use of Military Force in Venezuela" was held at the Center for National and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC,

where nearly forty guests discussed a potential military action against Caracas. The list of participants included former and present officials from the State Department, the National Council of Intelligence, and the National Security Council, as well as Admiral Kurt Tidd, who was chief of the South Commando until recently.

Today, the Armed Forces of the United States have the largest number of military, civil contractors and military installations outside their frontiers. Updated figures from the closing of 2018 show more than 1,3 million men and women in active military service abroad, of whom nearly 350 000 (26%) are in 177 countries if the military diplomatic service and embassy protection service are included. However, the main combat forces are located in 514 US-owned military installations located in 45 countries: 194 in Germany, 121 in Japan, and 83 in South Korea. Adding the own military installations to those agreed upon with the host States in less formal agreements, the United States has over 800 installations from which they can carry out military operations of considerable scope.

As to the denominations, no substantial changes have taken place and are maintained to avoid political pressures. Thus, for the United States, a military installation is defined as a military base, camp, post, center, shipyard or pier for any ship under jurisdiction and control of the Department of Defense, including those in rental that serve to develop or support activities of that department.

The installations outside the continental territory of the United States are classified in three groups:

- **Main Operating Bases (MOBs):** relatively large installations located in the territory of reliable allies, with a vast infrastructure and installations of family support that serve as base for support operations to smaller and austere bases. MOB examples are the Ramstein Air Base in Germany, the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, and Camp Humphreys, in South Korea.
- **Forward Operating Sites (FOS):** smaller installations that can be expanded and reduced as required. They store pre-positioned equipment, but normally only lodge a reduced number of forces that rotate regularly (in contrast with a permanent base). Although they are smaller, they continue to be capable of giving rapid support to a number of operations, with backup from the MOBs.
- **Cooperative Security Locations (CSL):** installations owned by the host governments only used by the United States in case of effective operations, although they may be visited and inspected by U.S.A. military. They are very probably managed by the host nation with its personnel or

even private contractors, and are useful to pre-position logistic support or as location for joint operations with the armies of the host countries. They can also be expanded and transformed into FOS if necessary.

But not only the United States stands out in the display of military forces outside its territory. France, for example, maintains 1,000 soldiers in its overseas territories in the Lesser Antilles; 2,100 men in French Guiana; 1,700 military in Djibouti; 1,400 in New Caledonia; 900 in French Polynesia, and 650 in the Arab Emirates, among others.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom, according to updated figures from April, 2016, maintains important military groups abroad, among which stand out 1,010 men in the Malvina Islands (which legitimately belong to the Republic of Argentina); 9,920 in Germany; 3,060 in Cyprus, and 200 hombres in Kenya, among others.

We will now examine in detail the situation in our region: Latin America and the Caribbean.

From the point of view of the USA political-military doctrine, the general directives are clearly contained in the Strategy for the Theater of Military Operations for 2017-2021 of the Southern Commando, which establishes that:

“The United States and the region share a wide range of interests. In 2016, USA trade with Central and South America exceeded \$200 000 million. Today, more than 18% of our citizens have Spanish ancestors, with a record of 27.3 million eligible for voting in 2016. These demographic data are shaping the future of the United States. All these elements – strategic, economic, and cultural – reinforce the profound links of the United States with the region.”

It likewise points out as main challenges to be faced in our region:

- unlawful trans-regional and trans-national networks
- natural disasters and outbreak of infectious diseases aggravated by poverty and lack of governability (they generate instability, migration, etc.)
- the increased presence of China, Russia and Iran in the region.

“These challenges will be faced by means of a “Network of Networks” operated by the Southern Commando together with the USA agencies and participating allies and nations, through a combination of diplomacy, development and defense. This network includes agencies and networks of the USA government