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Trump and the Sonic Sham against Cuba

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The rest of the world I guess is the kingdom of Lucifer, since he went as far as saying that the US Constitution “is the greatest document in human history”. No wonder his slogan America first, and top guarantee such a purpose he stressed: We have exceeded historical rise on defense expenditure”. There were also enthusiastic ovation...

Stage and auditorium heard his promise inherited from Ronald Reagan, one of the lecturer-presidents preferred by the Heritage Foundation: to achieve peace by force, and referred to some of the world problems and the states he has considered as enemies which he denigrates, threatens and sanctions on a daily basis.

Third on that list – after the Democratic Popular Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and before

mentioning Venezuela- the ignorant in international affairs and many others, named Cuba with this assertion:

“I also canceled the last administration’s one-sided deal (referring to Barack Obama’s term) with the communist Cuban regime, and we will not lift sanctions until political and religious freedom are restored for the Cuban people.”

Of course, to impose that policy in reverse- which denies the preference of over 66% of Americans to advance in the relations with Cuba and to eliminate the restrictions imposed by the blockade and its rights to free trade, to travel and to do business with a quite close neighbor – they made up a justification, the “sonic attacks” near Havana’s sea wall, the alleged acoustic damage to 22 diplomats or relatives. And the fantastic story hit the headlines throughout the world and frightened the unwary.

The question is needed: Where is the true deafness? In the US diplomats who are allegedly suffering from it and other medical symptoms contracted during their service in the US Embassy in Havana, or are their higher-ups in Washington turning a deaf ear when they were quick to take hasty measures which deteriorates the relations without considering Cuban authorities’ cooperation to investigate the incidents, to collect evidence, and to draw conclusions on their nature and origin?

In the absence of a picture of the patients treated by their doctors or of the medical reports with the symptoms they suffer, I make use of the Sonic comics – a British character of stories for children between 3 and 6 years of age- , and the James Bond’s films, from which the alleged incidents seem to arise presented by the State Department to make evident the unjustified diplomatic retaliation which sinks the bilateral relations into a crisis and expects to damage the Cuban economy with the warning that “it is dangerous” to visit Cuba.

As the episodes of this soap opera have advanced following the Cold War tall stories, the terms were swelling from incidents to attacks.

A character mistakes the script

More recently, however, the main character again came on the scene with a corrected and augmented version of events to justify its decision to remove officials from its embassy in Havana and, above all, to expel Cuban diplomats from Washington, measured with a tail that causes annoyance to the citizenship of both sides. The intention does seem to be obvious: to empty relations.

The beating about the bush dominated the statements of the actors of the sham.

Trump went out of his way and made a further blunder for his record when on Monday, October 16, to a journalist's question about whether or not he believes that Cuba is responsible for the "attacks" on US personnel, he said: "It's a very unusual attack, as you know, but I think Cuba is responsible, yes."

Such a categorical and unreflective assertion by the neophyte in political issues once again put his team against the wall, as has happened in more than one topic in a climax, because in this case the State Department has not made such an accusation, that Cuba must protect the diplomats (which, by the way, has always been the policy of the Cuban Government, respectful of all international conventions in this regard).

The fact is that the journalists repeatedly inquired with State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert the following day at the daily press briefing and the official staggered because she had no choice but to deny the White House chief but without "damaging his credibility, which seems an increasingly difficult task:

Well, we've been clear in saying that an investigation is ongoing. I think what the President was saying and also what his Chief of Staff General Kelly was saying last week is the same thing that we have been saying, in that Cuba is responsible for protecting our U.S. embassy personnel, our diplomats who are serving down there, under the Vienna Conventions.

The questioning was reiterated: "But with all due respect, that's not what the President said", Nauert once more rambled: "Well, that's what the intent was. We've not changed our view on that. The administration has not changed its view on that. The investigation remains ongoing. But we've also been clear about this, and at the State Department we tend to be super, super, super, super cautious about some of the things we say..."

There was no truce for the spokeswoman in the journalists' questioning: "I could recognize that the President's comments caused some confusion. I mean, otherwise why did the department feel it necessary to send a cable to all the embassies and consulates around the world titled, "Clarifying the Cuban Stance," after the comments were made..."

MS Nauert: Well, we always --

Question: And in which that cable says specifically that we have not assigned...

MS Nauert: We always do send out cables that explain any kind of changes in U.S. policy, and my understanding that that cable was anticipated. That was something that we had planned, no, no, no. That is something that we had planned for in working on a cable that would go out across the world to alert people to some of the health concerns and areas and symptoms that people were experiencing. Okay, guys? We got to leave it there. Thank you. Yes?"

Dismantling a badly constructed stage

Some international media already question the alleged incidents. The Associated Press news agency, also the New York Times that on October 5, in an extensive report, investigated with medical and technological specialties scientists related to the subject in question and the title practically said everything: A «Sonic attack» on diplomats in Cuba? These scientists doubt it. And the newspaper said: "The State Department has not provided further details about the medical condition of the affected staffers"(...) "Experts in acoustics, however, say that's a theory more appropriate to a James Bond movie."

For its part The Guardian newspaper, on October 12, also put the US story in question with experts in psychosomatic disorders, and the headline reads: Mass hysteria may explain 'sonic attacks' in Cuba, say top neurologists.

Among those outstanding experts highlights this sample opinion: "From an objective point of view it's more like mass hysteria than anything else," said Mark Hallett, the head of the human motor control section of the US National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Washington's one-act farce might have subsequent episodes. We'll keep reporting.

Translated by ESTI

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