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On the Presence of International Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in U. S. Territory

Below we excerpt a statement by Dagoberto Rodriguez, Chief of the Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C., April 15, 2005.

Late March 2005, some media outlets reported the presence of the confessed international terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles in the U.S. territory. Such information was confirmed on April 13th, when Posada Carriles applied for political asylum in the United States and issued a statement reaffirming his vocation for terrorism, the validity of such methods and his decision to go on using them.

On April 1st, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, simultaneously demanded from the U.S. Interests Section in Havana and from the State Department, through a diplomatic note, official confirmation of Posada Carriles' presence in the United States and, in such a case, his immediate deportation to Cuba, or, in case the U.S. Government does not want to do it for political or other reasons, that he were prosecuted in the U.S. for his terrorist atrocities. On April 11th, Cuban President Fidel Castro demanded that the U.S. President George W. Bush respond before the world whether it was true that his government was harboring in its territory this well known international terrorist.

Up to now, no U.S. government authority has issued a word on this matter. The silence of the U.S. government does not surprise us. It has been its historical behavior to harbor terrorists of Cuban origin in U.S. territory, giving them shelter and protection. During a long time, terrorism was the favorite method applied by the U.S. in its efforts to overthrow the Cuban government and that is why it trained, armed and financed them.

Maybe for that reason, on April 12th, during the State Department's regular briefing, asked on this issue, spokesman Richard Boucher replied: "I think it's probably topics we've always -- we've addressed many times in the past. I'm not sure there's anything new there." Unfortunately

Boucher was right: to harbor terrorists operating against Cuba is not new for the U.S. government.

Posada Carriles' terrorist dossier is widely known, as is known his public acknowledgment of his actions. Among the dozen and dozen terrorists acts carried out by Posada Carriles, the most despicable was the bombing of a Cuban airliner in midair flight on October 6th, 1976, in which all 73 passengers and crew members were killed. He sponsored and organized also nine bomb attacks against Cuban hotels, restaurants and discotheques in Havana during the summer of 1997.

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Venezuela Issues Extradition Request for Terrorist in U.S.

The following is excerpted from an article in Venezuelanalysis.com.

Caracas, Venezuela, April 13, 2005

Venezuela formally asked U.S. authorities to extradite an escaped prisoner who was responsible for the bombing of a Cuban airliner in 1976, in which 73 persons were killed. The former prisoner, Luis Posada Carriles, is a Cuban exile who had escaped a Venezuelan prison in 1985. For a while he lived in Panama, where he was also captured for planning an assassination of Cuba's President Fidel Castro in 2000. He was then pardoned in Panama, though, and entered the U.S. about a month ago.

Venezuela's Vice-President, José Vicente Rangel, said, "We going to step up our demands for extradition." "I hope Mr. Bush will take note of his own anti-terrorism policies and hand over Posada Carriles," added Rangel....

Rangel pointed out that it is no wonder that Posada Carriles is requesting asylum in the U.S.,

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Further Militarization of Outer Space

Later this year, the Pentagon will test a new unmanned space craft which along with a new "space plane" are intended to give the U.S. military the ability to "crush someone anywhere in the world in 30 minutes notice with no need for a nearby air base." (quoted from John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a military think-tank which advises the Pentagon). This plan was confirmed by recent Congressional testimony give by General Lance Lord, commander of the Air Force's Space Command, who said the new space vehicles will give the Pentagon "incredible capability to provide the warfighter with a global reach against high payoff targets."

These new space weapons are part of "Plan Falcon" which is expected to be operational within 5 years. "Plan Falcon" is based on the government's "national defense strategy" which calls for U.S. military dominance of outer space to "enable us to project power anywhere in the world from secure bases of operation."

This ever-growing militarization of outer space stems from U.S. imperialism's strategy of preemptive war and absolute military superiority. This reliance on military force is at the core of U.S. capitalism's drive to expand its world empire and enforce its domination over the entire world.

U. S. Illegally Arming Haitian Police

Recent news reports have exposed that, for the last six months, the U. S. government has been secretly and illegally selling arms to the Haitian government.

Since 1991, U.S. law has forbidden the sale of arms to Haiti. But last Fall, the Pentagon began selling recycled arms, stockpiled at U. S. bases in Panama, to the new Haitian government which was installed by the U.S. after invading the country on February 29, 2004. An article by Robert Muggah in the Canadian paper the "Globe and Mail" reports that the U.S. has already sold more than \$7 million in arms over the last 6 months.

These guns are going into the hands of the Haitian National Police (HNP) which is being reorganized by the occupying armies of the U.S. and the U.N. The HNP is using these guns to carry out a reign of terror against the Haitian people. In the 13 months since the U.S. invasion, the foreign troops and the HNP police have murdered an estimated 10,000 people, imprisoned thousands of political opponents and forced 500,000 people into exile or underground.

The U.S. and its puppet Haitian armed forces are trying to drown in blood the struggle of the Haitian people who are demanding an end to U. S./U.N. occupation, restoration of the constitutional order and return of their elected President, Jean Baptiste Aristide.

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For those actions he hired, trained and financed Central American terrorists. An Italian tourist was killed and 11 others people were wounded. [Posada Carriles boasts of these crimes in an interview in the "New York Times" on July 12, 1998 -- ed.]

In November 2000, Posada Carriles and other three henchmen were arrested while preparing conditions for setting off a powerful bomb at the University of Panama's Conference Hall, where President Fidel Castro was due to deliver a speech before hundreds of university students. Posada Carriles was sentenced to 8 years in prison, but eventually he was pardoned by

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"because during all of the acts that he participated in he did so while he was an employee of the CIA."

Carriles Posada, who is 77 years old and dual Venezuelan-Cuban citizenship, is a veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 and has also been connected to a string of bombings in Cuban tourist locations in 1997. He escaped from a Venezuelan prison in 1985, disguised as a priest, while prosecutors appealed his acquittal.

the outgoing Panama's President, Mireya Moscoso, mainly under pressure by U.S. high ranking government officials in close coordination with their allies in Miami.

It is significant that, during the last few days in several statements to the press, Posada Carriles' attorney, Eduardo Soto, has made special emphasis on Posada's services to the CIA. It is clear that, at this moment, Posada Carriles pretends to cash back the debt for having acted, direct or indirectly, on behalf of the U.S. government interests during many years....

Acting against a terrorist such as Posada Carriles means also to make justice to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. We demand from Mr. Bush, on behalf of the survivors and the victims' relatives of Posada Carriles' actions, and on behalf of the Cuban people, to stop harboring and protecting cold-blooded mass murderers and monstrous terrorists.

We demand from Mr. Bush not to follow the ill fated lessons from his father, who granted pardon to another infamous terrorist named Orlando Bosh, who now walks freely in Miami.

We demand from Mr. Bush to have enough courage to break ties with the Miami terrorists, to put Luis Posada Carriles under arrest immediately, and to make sure that he pays for his many crimes in U. S. courts of law, in Venezuela's, or before an international tribunal in an impartial place.

The world watches, Mr. Bush!!