

Castro represents a continuous challenge to the security of the US.

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Cuba represents a continuous challenge to the security of the US, affirmed professor Dr. Jaime Suchlicki, in an interview with DIARIO LAS AMERICAS.

The director of the Institute of Cuban and Cuban-American Studies of the University of Miami said he had been surprised at the little attention that had been given to that which he considers the most important fact, among those which came up in the trial of the Cuban spies of the "Wasp Network." That is the order of the Cuban intelligence service to one of its agents to find a place in south Florida to unload explosives and weapons. "Who *quila* [?] that they could be chemical or bacteriological weapons?"...

None of this is in conflict with the obsession of Castro with the U.S. and the audacity of the Cuban dictator, which is framed with another reason for concern, which is the increase in the Chinese presence in Cuba from the point of view of electronic espionage with the two stories [stories as in floors of a building] set up next to that of Lourdes, capable not only of listening to communications in part of the territory of the U.S., but also to interfere in [or jam] the military communications in a moment of crisis, which could have catastrophic results by distorting the orders given for the waves [wavelengths that were interfered with. "That's the value of a base of that type near the U.S."

Suchlicki maintains that the last thing that Castro wants is to change the structure of his government or give up power. His currency [or emblem] is "to continue the struggle," just as he suggested to his comrades in the Fifth Congress of the Communist Party in Havana in 1997, in other words, to organize themselves to return to power when capitalism fails. For this reason the interviewee gave little importance to the proposal that Raúl Castro made to the US government, that it is better to normalize relations with Cuba now with Fidel Castro, and not after him, a proposal that chancellor Pérez Roque stressed a few days ago.

"If there was real interest on Cuba's part in normalizing relations, they would have utilized diplomatic channels for this type of thing, not a public announcement," commented Suchlicki, who believes that what is intended with this announcement is, which is worthwhile for them as soon as the embargo is lifted and there is access to international credit, to give to international public opinion the idea of a Castro who is not intransigent, but that it is the Americans that don't want it. The trip that Pérez Roque just embarked on in search of support for the lifting of the embargo confirms this.

Every time a new Administration takes over in the U.S. — continued commenting Suchlicki — the Castro regime extends a supposed olive branch, but without offering real concessions. "That is why I do not consider that which Raúl Castro declared to be anything serious."

Definitively for Castro is a worry that the Revolution will crumble and that Cuba will be returned to the U.S. "And what he is doing is prevent that from eventually happening." To those effects, he is doing the following. First, carrying out an ideological campaign in the schools, the CDRs [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], etc; Second, he has put into action a campaign of repression to intimidate and impede the dissidence from revealing itself with complete liberty; third, prevent the foreign influence that could be taking place,

and fourth, passing more power to Raúl Castro. "What there is in Cuba is a succession from Fidel to the military people and to Raúl, that can be seen in the force that has been spent for their control of the economy, tourism, communications, sugar, and other industries," affirmed Suchlicki, to add "with the penetration of the military people in the economic process, logically creates in them a special interest in the continuity of the system, with the particularity that it is about the strongest of the three institutions in which the government rests: the Armed Forces, the State Security and the Communist Party."

Concerning the role that the Cuban dictator is playing in the regrouping of the left and the subversive movements in the continent, professor Suchlicki says that "the violence is always Castro's, for whom the armed struggle in the city and the country is the best form that his allies have to come to power, even more so when you have seen the possibilities of the triumph of Lula in Brazil and Cárdenas in Mexico, do not exist. Hence his strategy of helping guerrilla groups like FARC and the ELN in Columbia.