

The Foundation backs Senator Jesse Helms' request for an "energetic response"

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The case of the Cuban espionage network recently discovered by the FBI in Miami returns to the mat with the call made by North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms to the Clinton Administration to deliver an "energetic response" to the attempt by the tyrant Fidel Castro to infiltrate and sabotage U.S. military installations in Florida. The news was offered by the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) to a wide variety of press, where it fully supports Helms' demands.

"The recent discovery of a sophisticated network of spies operating on United States territory is a wake-up call to all who assume Fidel Castro has ceased to be America's untiring enemy," said the compassionate senator, adding that "the Clinton Administration should not fail to meet its clear obligation to respond to this and other hostile actions by Cuba."

The CANF in turn, through a letter addressed to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and signed by its Vice-Chairman, Jorge Mas Santos, gave its full support to Helms' request in the following terms: "We congratulate Senator Helms for his leadership in demanding that Castro be held responsible for what can only be described as an atrocious assault on U.S. national security interests. Fidel Castro will only abstain from carrying out unacceptable activities when he realizes that there will be a high cost for him. A failure to respond to his espionage conspiracy will only invite more anti-American initiatives on the part of the dictator."

Last Monday, September 14, the FBI charged ten individuals in Miami's Federal Court with serving as agents for the Cuban government, charged with obtaining information about Cuban exiles and, above all, U.S. military installations, such as the MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, the Naval Station at Key West, and the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command, in charge of supervising this country's military activities in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as detecting drug trafficking. The majority of the group was booked as Cuban intelligence services officers. The Cuban government only issued a quiet response to the event, which was highlighted by the local news media.

The letter from Mas also expresses to Secretary Albright that "It is imperative that the U.S. take immediate appropriate measures to respond to this act of hostility against the country," while Senator Helms' proposal, backed by the Foundation, recommends:

- "1. That the FBI relentlessly pursue this espionage conspiracy, and that all Cuban personnel working in any diplomatic post in Washington, D.C., and at the U.N. who had contact with this spy network, be arrested, charged and/or deported, without delay.
2. That any future request on the part of the Cuban "diplomats" to travel beyond the limits of Washington D.C. or New York, particularly to South Florida, should be summarily denied.
3. That official U.S. exile groups and citizens who have been or are targeted by the Cuban spies, be advised by the U.S. authorities about this threat.
4. That Russia should be held responsible for its continued electronic eavesdropping on

commercial and U.S. defense communications from the Lourdes base to the west of Havana; that all conversations with the Castro regime about possible "anti-drug cooperation" cease immediately.

5. That Cuban officials be held responsible for the terrorist attack perpetrated by Cuban MiGs against the two unarmed Cessnas in international airspace on February 24, 1996.

And,

6. That the Justice Department proceed rapidly with an investigation of the shoot-down and formulate the corresponding charges against the Cuban officials involved."