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REPUBLIC OF CUBA
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

New York, 3 June 2020

Excellency,

I have the honor of addressing you in your capacity as Secretary General of the United Nations to draw your attention to the serious terrorist attack involving a firearm perpetrated against the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba to the United States of America, on Thursday, 30 April 2020.

That day, at 2:05 a.m., Cuban-born citizen Alexander Alazo Baró fired 32 rounds with a semi-automatic assault rifle at the Embassy building, where 10 Cuban diplomats were present at the time. This serious event endangered the lives and the safety of the Embassy staff and their families. There was material damage to the building resulting from the impacts of numerous shots.

The Government of the United States has chosen not to condemn nor reject this serious terrorist attack. Its complicit silence encourages the execution of similar actions by violent individuals and groups existing in the United States itself.

The perpetrator of the attack was arrested by the local authorities at the scene and remains in their custody. We have publicly appreciated the professional conduct and swift response of the local police forces and the Secret Service at the moment of the attack, who rushed to the scene.

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary General of United Nations
Organization
New York

At noon that same day, April 30, the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs summoned the Chargé d' Affaires of the United States Embassy in Havana to express his strongest protest against the serious terrorist attack. So far, there has been no official public statement from the State Department. Its official reaction to the Cuban Government was only processed through diplomatic channels almost 5 days after the event.

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This terrorist act is the direct result of the US Government's aggressive and hateful policy and speeches against Cuba and the permanent incitement to violence by US politicians, including senior officials from the State Department and the US Embassy in Havana; as well as anti-Cuban extremist groups who have made this kind of attacks a means of living.

It is not possible to dissociate an event like this from the tightening of the illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, which includes unconventional measures, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, which affects the entire planet. We remark that the US campaign against the international medical cooperation and its slanders against the Cuban health personnel working in third countries is also an incitement to violence against them, as we had already demonstrated months ago.

For Cuba, this is a serious event, which has taken place in the capital of a country where a significant number of diplomatic missions are present. The silence of the United States Government can become a stimulus for those who identify diplomatic missions as 3(1)30 GBT/F1p q0.000e

There is a serious history of violent and hostile acts, including terrorist attacks against Cuban diplomatic officials based in the United States, both at the Embassy in Washington and at its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. It should be recalled, for example, that Cuban diplomat Félix García Rodríguez was assassinated in New York on 11 September 1980 and that direct attacks with the use of explosive devices were carried out against the headquarters of the Permanent Mission of Cuba in that city. The groups and individuals who have committed terrorist acts against Cuba in the past are still operating, and have operated, with impunity on US soil for years, which is fully known to the United States Government's law enforcement agencies.

The General Assembly has reiterated in numerous occasions its outright and unequivocal rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

We recall that resolution 74/194 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019, calls upon all States to take further measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant provisions of international law, to prevent terrorism and strengthen international cooperation.

It also calls upon all States, to enhance the effective implementation of the relevant legal instruments, in order to intensify, as and where appropriate, the exchange of information on terrorism-related events and, in so doing, to avoid the dissemination of inaccurate and unverified information; and, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the Charter, to deny safe haven to and bring to justice perpetrators of terrorist acts or those who support, facilitate, participate or attempt to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

On behalf of the Republic of Cuba, I respectfully call upon you so that you encourage the US authorities to observe, implement and enforce thoroughly, all the principles and norms of international law governing consular

