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Statement by Carlos Fernández de Cossío, General Director for U.S. Affairs on U.S. State Department's false accusations

11/12/2018



The General Director for U.S. Affairs at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Fernández de Cossío, rejected the text on Cuba published by the U.S. Secretary of State in the night of December 10th, 2018. "With a lack of decorum which is usual in the government of the United States when referring to the human rights issue, the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has made public a letter he says to have sent to the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, but had not been received at the time it was published", said the Director.

He also stated that "the government of the United States acts dishonestly when it expresses concern over the human rights situation in Cuba or anywhere else" and made clear that "the United States' historical trajectory, its constant and flagrant abuses against its own population and the population of many countries worldwide, as well as its alliance throughout history with dictatorial regimes who committed the most opprobrious crimes, disqualify the moral authority of U.S. leaders".

In the opinion of Fernández de Cossío, "the alleged letter of the Secretary of State and the way it was publicly handled are nothing more than acts of propaganda". He stated that there is also, "a lack of will by that government to sit at the table with Cuba, with seriousness and commitment, in a bilateral dialogue between equals, to discuss the human rights issue and the way to sincerely advance toward a constructive cooperation on this issue" and added that, "if the United States were truly interested in the human rights of Cubans, it would not impose a criminal economic blockade that affects the whole nation, nor would it put in place increasing obstacles against the orderly immigration and the consular services depended upon by dozens of thousands of Cubans".

"Cuba is a country in which human rights are respected", underscored the Director and added that, as opposed to the United States, "the Cuban government and the society as a whole work to promote and guarantee the legal framework, public policies and the effective enjoyment of citizens' rights, including the right to a decent life, free from exploitation, marginalization, social alienation, discrimination of any kind, violence, criminality and abuse of power, with free access to healthcare services and quality education for the whole population, among other

guarantees".

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