

Statement by H.E. Mr. Rodney Lopez Clemente, Deputy Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations (20 April 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to commend you on your election as Chair of the Committee, as well as, the new bureau members. We would like to acknowledge the excellent work in this term of former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh.

It is also our pleasure to welcome new member countries: Cape Verde, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Iceland and Qatar.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, for the detailed and broad report submitted on the work undertaken.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation joins the statements made by the distinguished Representative of Jamaica on behalf of G-77 and China.

Regrettably, the gap between developed and developing countries in terms of communication and information is ever increasing.

This enormous gap intensifies despite all the efforts to take the advances of science and technology in communications and information to the different regions of the planet.

Nevertheless, while in the developed world we witness the Internet boom and the implementation of new technologies, in developing countries this progress is slow and difficult due to persisting poverty, diseases, hunger, conflicts and war in the South. Thus, the gap between North and South grows.

Hence, we shall not disregard in all our strategy the importance of traditional means of information, especially the radio which reaches the greatest masses in developing countries, where illiteracy is a terrible reality in the midst of this allegedly "informatized" world.

This imbalance we refer to, between the developed and the developing worlds, is also present in the information dissemination field. I could state many examples to prove how the information, which disseminates from the developed world, distorts, falsifies, twists or ignores news and events that occur in our world, or even, creates news to distract the international community's attention. Each day, a New World Order in Information is more necessary.

We are reaching the second stage of the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in Tunisia in November. Practical, lasting and sustainable solutions will be necessary for the insertion of developing countries in the information society. Developing countries require stable and foreseeable sources of financial resources favoring the access to information technologies.

We shall reinforce the possibilities our Organization offers us all.

It is clear that UN Information Centers shall play, each and every day, a more important role in the diffusion of the just and balanced information the world needs.

We consider that any future rationalization decision of the Centers shall be reached close cooperation with recipient countries. The decision-making factor for these closedowns should not be based on a financial approach. We consider that the necessary financial resources should be earmarked to developing countries.

My delegation considers that the DPI's work plan shall pay special attention to items of great interest to developing countries. Likewise, we consider of great importance the use of multilingualism in information. Undoubtedly, a task of great necessity shall be information dissemination favoring dialogue among civilizations and a culture for peace.

Mr. Chairman,

Once again, my delegation is forced to denounce in this Committee the daily radio and TV aggression against my country from US territory.

These actions continue to increase. Every week 2 351, 15 radio and television hours are broadcast from the United States towards Cuba, through 31 different frequencies, by medium and shortwave, FM and television. Altogether, between 312 and 315 hours are broadcast on a daily basis, which have nothing to do with balanced and objective information. On the contrary, they base their programming on misinformation and falsification. Out of these 17 stations belong to organizations that are linked to or promote terrorists who are based, operate and act in US territory with full knowledge and consent of US Federal Administration authorities.

Two stations are owned by the United States Government. They are the notorious and wrongly called television and radio Marti.

The US Government annually allocates more than 35 million dollars to this radio-electronic war against Cuba.

As we have before stated, such broadcasts constitute flagrant violations of the regulations established by the International Frequency Registration Board of the International Telecommunication Union. They violate International Law and attempt against our sovereignty.

The United States continue to finance, facilitate and stimulate illegal broadcasts against Cuba, which distort our country's reality, encourage illegal emigration under dangerous conditions, disobedience and indiscipline, violence and terrorist actions; in defiance of laws and rule of law. The United Nations has adopted several resolutions that highlight the need of deterring the exploitation of information for criminal or terrorist purposes. The use of information with a marked interest to subvert the internal order of States, violate their

sovereignty and carry out actions of interference in their internal affairs results an illegal action.

Nevertheless, the United States continues its radio-electronic war against our country, as an essential part of its obsessive and sickly policy of destroying the Cuban Revolution. In this effort, the United State has continued to use all means. They have strengthened their broadcast potentials by improving their antennas, making changes in TV transmissions, VHF to UHF. They have invaded broadcast bands, acquired aerostats, among other actions.

Last year, despite our reiterated accusations the US Administration aiming at strengthening its policy against our people, implemented new measures. The dangerous use of a military C-130 plane as an air platform to broadcast the wrongly named "TV Marti" is included among them.

As known, all these actions have come up against the skills and abilities of Cuban specialists and technicians who have managed to interrupt the television broadcasts and a great part of the radio broadcasts. But, over all, they have clashed with the decision and conviction of a people who repudiate and reject this kind of aggression.

Mr. Chairman,

Cuba reiterates its condemnation to this aggression and totally rejects the US Government's attempt to maintain and increase radio and television broadcasts towards Cuba. The decision of the kind of information the Cuban people wish to receive sovereignly corresponds to our country and not to those who, from the US governmental administration, waste the taxpayers' contribution and conspire with terrorists in their plans against the Cuban Revolution.

Cuba will continue to exercise its sovereignty and independence and will continue to adopt all the measures at our reach to deter these aggressive actions.

Thank you very much.