

P.O. Box 1842
Fernandina Beach, Fl. 32035
12 December 1994

The Honorable Jesse Helms
403 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms:

Congratulations on resuming the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I hope that the new Republican majority in Congress will be able to solve a pending foreign relations imbroglio that has been festering for over thirty years--to help bring about freedom and democracy to Cuba, as outlined in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992.

Unfortunately, this law does not address what many Cuban-Americans consider the cornerstone of United States-Cuba relations: the secret Kennedy-Khrushchev Executive Agreement of 1962. This accord impedes American military action against Castro, similar to what restored democracy in Grenada, Panama and Haiti. It also prohibits Cuban exiles from attacking Castro from anywhere within the Western Hemisphere.

On 5 September 1979, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance provided the following description of the agreement:

"The 1962 agreement is not just a simple piece of paper. It consists of an exchange of letters between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev; it consists of discussions between Russian officials, including Minister Kuznetsov, Minister Mikoyan, and individuals in the United States and representatives of the U.S. Government. It includes discussions between officials of the United States and Ambassador Dobrynin. So that it is a series of both exchanges of letters and discussions that make up the total agreement."

On 22 June 1983, I wrote to you regarding the declassification of this agreement. I am enclosing a copy of your reply of 19 August 1983, in which you stated that you would have Secretary of State George Schultz explain the secret documents before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Two months later, after Schultz testified at a closed-door hearing, the "Washington Post" quoted you as saying that the Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement, "is mostly 'a myth,' but that its 'ghost' paralyzes American policy and today prevents more forceful action against Cuba."

After the demise of the Soviet Union, the State Department released in 1992 the remainder of the twenty-five classified letters exchanged between Kennedy and Khrushchev. Yet, the agreement itself has never been divulged, although a law passed a few years ago prohibits government agencies from keeping documents classified for more than thirty years.

Senator Helms
12 December 1994
Page Two

Is it possible now for you, or the Foreign Relations Committee, to have the Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement fully disclosed? Does the United States Government still consider this accord binding, even though the Soviet Union no longer exists? Is it possible to declassify the 1983 testimony of Secretary Schultz before the Committee regarding the agreement?

I urge you to take action regarding the disclosure or annulment of the Kennedy-Khrushchev Executive Agreement of 1962. The repeal of this foreign policy anachronism will hasten freedom and democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. de la Cova, Ph.D.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

January 20, 1995

Mr. Antonio R. de la Cova
P.O. Box 1842
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32035

Dear Mr. de la Cova:

Thank you for your letter dated December 12, 1994 regarding disclosure of the Kennedy-Krushchev Executive Agreement of 1962.

I have forwarded your letter to the U.S. State Department. The State Department will be contacting you directly with a response to your inquiry.

Again, thank you for contacting me to express your concern.

Sincerely,

JESSE HELMS



JH:mrl