

April 29, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mister President:

The arrest, trial, and sentencing of several dozens of political dissidents in Cuba, followed by the execution of three young individuals that tried to escape from the island have aroused an international wave of rejection to Fidel Castro's regime. Outstanding intellectuals and politicians that for decades supported Castro are now censuring him. For the first time in forty four years, there is a truly favorable climate for the democratization of the island.

Taking into account this current situation, the undersigned, on behalf of the patriotic organizations of the Cuban exile, request from you the application of some measures that our experience on the Cuban issue deem of vital importance at this time for the advent of freedom and democracy to Cuba.

These are the measures:

1. A ban on travel to Cuba
2. Suspension of money remittances to the island
3. An intense lobby to have as many democratic countries as possible to join the U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba
4. Issuance of a preventive notice to Cuban authorities that a mass exodus from the island will not be tolerated, and
5. Provide Radio and TV Marti with the appropriate technical devices so the Cuban people may listen and see how life is in a democratic system.

It is a well known fact that the economy is the weakest element in communist regimes. Money remittances and travels to the island comprise the main source of income for Castro at this time. By curtailing those funds, the repressive apparatus will lack resources to play their role as terror providers. At the same time, humanitarian assistance remains open to food and medicine for the victims of the regime. If the world succeeded in changing the apartheid system in South Africa by imposing economic sanctions, in Cuba they may work too.

