

Research Report

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Forum	General Assembly 4
Issue:	The question of the embargoes imposed by the United States of America on Cuba
Student Officer:	Berend Verweij
Position:	Deputy chair

Introduction

Implemented by the United States of America in 1960 the embargo against Cuba prevented any commercial, economical and financial relations between the two nations. These sanctions will remain in place until the Cuban government starts to move towards a “democratized nations with more respect towards the human rights”.

It is a very interesting yet complex issue as until now the embargo has inflicted more damage to the population than to the government. Is it really the way forward? When debating a resolution on topics such as these, delegates have to not only keep in mind the feasibility of a resolution passing, but also the effect the resolution will have if any. For this issue it is crucial to understand the international diplomacy and the relevance of both the American and Cuban government

Definition of Key Terms

Blockade

A physical block that will, often militarily, block trade, food, transport or communication within a specific region or country.

Cuban missile crisis

A term often used to refer to the situation of October 1962 when soviet nuclear weapons were built on Cuban soil in range of American soil and the diplomatic struggle that resulted.

Cuban American vote

The term Cuban American vote might seem confusing and contradictory but it refers to a massive part of the American political game. The Cuban American vote is crucial financially to many if not all American presidential candidates as the lobbying groups, or advocacy corps, donate funds. To understand the full cause and effect of these advocacy corps one needs grand understanding of the American political system, but to put it simply it can be explained like this. American presidential candidates get voted on in each state. To win over Florida, a crucial state, the Cuban American vote is crucial. The fact that its crucial gives advocacy groups who represent these voters power to, for instance keep the embargo on the agenda. Represented by advocacy corps such as the Cuba Democracy Public Advocacy Corp.

Embargo

An official legislative ban on trade with a specific country, region, or peoples.

Organization of American States (OAS)

An international organization uniting 35 American member states. This might lead to confusion, as the 35 member states are individual countries in both South and North America, oppose to individual states of The United States of America. In other words The United States of America is one individual state of the 35 member states. Cuba is a member now, and was when the OAS was set up. However Cuba was excluded from 1962 to 2009. It is recognized under the Charter of the UN of Bogota as a regional agency.

Repressive Communist

Communism is a governmental theory in which property is owned through the community. When communism is applied it is generally done so throughout totalitarian one party regimes. The term Repressive Communism refers to communism that hinders development of people, how popular American news media will refer to the form of communism in place, or the communism that has being in place in Cuba. (A good example of this is the New York Times)

General Overview

The embargo in place on Cuba has passed its 50-year anniversary. Enplaced by the Americans once the Cuban government they supported was overthrown by the communist leader, Fidel Castro. Terrified by the thought of a communist country so close to the coast the American government put an embargo in place. This was done to weaken the Cuban government to stop them from committing, what the American government referred to as crimes against human rights. The theoretical effect of the embargo was to turn the Cuban people against their own government. However when an American sponsored attack by Cuban rebels utterly failed it quickly became obvious that the new Cuban government was, contrary to American expectation, extraordinarily popular. The Cuban government then, fearing more violence, turned to the former USSR for help ultimately leading to the Cuban missile crisis. The United States has kept the embargo in place and interestingly has kept innovating it. What is internationally referred to as the “embargo” is commonly referred to by Fidel Castro and other leading Cuban figures as “the blockade” or “economic warfare.”

The economic relevance of the embargo is often exaggerated. Cuba before the rebels took power was a loved holiday island for many Americans. With all this American tourism, a lot of investment from the United States was inevitable. When Fidel Castro took power all these properties that the Americans had invested in rendered useless, leading to American financial losses. The embargo was a strong message that defined American policy, against communism, against human rights violations, and against the ‘illegitimate’ rebel army of Fidel Castro. The economic message delivered with this embargo was irrelevant as the communist government of Cuba didn’t trade with anyone, and wouldn’t do so for at least another 15 years. When these 15 years passed and the Cubans decided to start trading, the embargo negatively affected the Cuban population, when for example medicine and food became scarce. The losses that Cuba had to deal with in investment fields were largely compensated by other nations willing to make the necessary investments, such as Canada that has invested 3.5 billion in Cuba.

The embargo has had impact on many areas of Cuban’s economy and its society at large. It has been upheld for an unprecedented amount of years. Although, since the fall of the USSR that had supported Cuba the island nation has been yet isolated even more and development has stopped. This leaves Cuba as a poor place with few possibilities of employment and trade. Its leadership has similarly consistently refrained from making any gesture towards the USA. This stalemate has not been solved and notwithstanding the withdrawal of Fidel Castro from day to day government in Cuba, Cuban concessions towards

the USA are not to be expected soon. If the issue between the two nations is not addressed Cuba will remain a poor isolated island further affecting the standards of living of its people.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States Of America

President Barack Obama of The United States Of America said that should the Cuban government show “a genuine spirit of transformation” and a willingness to “catch up with history” the USA would be prepared to set aside its “cold war mentality” to respond positively. This reflects upon the progressive atmosphere that Obama wants to project.

Cuba

Wants to be able to freely trade with the United States but is not prepared to give up its governmental system. Furthermore it does not recognize the human rights violations and therefore sees no need to change or transform.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Resolution A/RES/66/6, which is the most recent resolution on the topic of Cuba. Adopted with only one vote against (USA). The Resolution urges the USA to invalidate the embargo.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There has never being a conclusive or semi-inclusive attempt to end or partially end the embargo on Cuba. Of course there are plenty of parties, including the UN that have sincerely spoken out their advice against the embargo.



Possible Solutions

From the perspective of the United Nations, it is not possible to do anything else but advise against. The only organ of the UN that could do anything apart from advise is the security council although violence will certainly not resolve the problem but instead create more.

Although the situation isn't hopeless as conditions have changed to the point where restoring normal economic ties would be smart for both sides. Common grounds do exist. Both sides want national security and economic opportunity. Now would be the time to share common interests mutually benefiting both parties in three main areas: agricultural trade, energy development and immigration. Those factors need to be clear, as they could be the foundations for a post embargo relationship.

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