

Tomado de Cubadebate, Omar Pérez Salomón

It was, undoubtedly, one of the bills that have had the most preparation, analysis, and discussion in the U.S. House and Senate, which contemplated the creation, financing, and operation by the U.S. government of a radio station destined to broadcast exclusively to Cuba.

In January 1982, Reagan appointed the Board of Directors of the new radio company, which the Mexican newspaper *El Día* described as a "strange mix of extreme right-wing millionaires and CIA officials".

The ideologues at the service of imperialism thought that these transmissions would have the same effects as those carried out by Radio Free Europe and Radio Freedom to the countries of Eastern Europe, in the sense of favoring ideological political subversion to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

The ITU Radio Regulations in their 1990 edition and revised in 1994 state in Article 30, Section 1, paragraph 2666, that medium-wave radio transmissions should be conceived as, "a good quality national service within the limits of the country in question". The terms of these regulations make Radio Marti's emissions in the 1180 kHz illegal since they use this frequency to broadcast signals from the United States to Cuba.

In August 2004, Radio and TV Martí signals began to be transmitted through a military aircraft of type EC-130, belonging to the Solo Command of a Psychological Warfare Unit of the United States Armed Forces, and since August 2006 through a twin-engine Gulfstream G-1. These flights stopped in May 2013, after spending a considerable amount of US taxpayers' money. Each broadcast cost more than 100,000 dollars and was covered by a budget approved by the U.S. Congress, which estimates more than 30 million dollars each

financial year for broadcasts against Cuba.

A reminder that the deployment of aircraft for illegal transmissions is one of the most provocative and dangerous actions. Such a measure has only been taken previously during war situations, such as Vietnam and Iraq, and it represents a clear violation of Cuban sovereignty.

On July 8th, 2014, the U.S. State Department announced that the United States officially ended one of the most ineffective and widely criticized programs of the last decade aimed at undermining the Cuban government: the broadcast of the misnamed Radio and TV Martí from an aircraft.

This piece of news, published by the Foreign Policy magazine, acknowledges that since it was launched the program was affected by a simple problem: every day the plane flew, its broadcasting signal was blocked, which means that less than 1 percent of the Cuban population could have access to the television and radio programs that they broadcast.

In September 2013, The Washington Post had published a news item announcing that the plane used in the broadcast of the anti-Cuban television signal was stationed in an airfield in rural Georgia, and a contractor was paid \$79,500 a year for its custody.

According to The Washington Post, Philip Peters, a former official of two Republican administrations and president of the Cuban Research Center in Alexandria, Virginia, said in September 2013 that, "the airplane's broadcasts have no audience. They have been effectively interfering it since its creation. And instead of spending the money on something that benefits the public, it has become a virility exhibit on Capitol Hill.

Press agencies such as the AP and the New York Times, which are not at all sympathetic to the Cuban Revolution, have echoed the statements of congressmen and specialists in the matter who demand the disconnection of the radio stations and recognize that the federal budget for the broadcasts of Radio Y TV Martí is a waste of money.

A 2009 research study done by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, indicated that it is still unclear whether Cubans listen to or watch Radio and Television Martí broadcasts.

The broadcasting of radio signals to Cuba from U.S. territory, which covers more than 1800 hours a week of anti-Cuban programming, has been a real war in the technical, diplomatic and intelligence fields, where the imperial power has carried the worst part, because every day the signal reception in its different frequencies is kept in a low profile. In these 34 years, more than 700 million US taxpayer's dollars have been spent on its maintenance.

Cuba is bound and right to denounce these illegal acts within the framework of various multilateral scenarios, to defend the sovereignty of its people, which includes the uninterrupted enjoyment of the radio frequencies to which it is entitled, subject to the rules and regulations of international law.

Interference with the Cuban broadcasting system as a result of illegal transmissions from U.S. territory has been repeatedly denounced by our country.

The behavior of the radio aggression against Cuba:

Stations transmitting against Cuba: 13 Stations of the U.S. government: 1 Station of counter-revolutionary organizations: 11 From other organizations: 1 Stations transmitting to U.S. territory and heard in Cuba: 7 Stations specifically directed against Cuba: 6 Total frequencies used: 21 Total hours transmitted weekly: More than 1800 Total hours transmitted daily: 220
