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1300:radio:

1982

by Lionel Martin

WP 365 politics
Vice Minister of
Foreign Affairs
and
radio

havana, aug 20, reuter -- ricardo alarcon, cuban vice-minister of foreign affairs told reuter today that if radio marti goes on the air with programmes aimed at cuba on medium or long wave bands, +we are going to begin broadcasts to the united states that would inevitably interfere with u.s. broadcasting there.+

in august the house of representatives voted 250 to 134 in favour of a reagan administration request to finance a radio free-europe type stations, radio marti, that would be beamed exclusively to cuba. the u.s. senate has still not approved the appropriations bill.

+we won't just sit with crossed arms and do nothing,+ alarcon told reuter. +we are going to respond because if a neighboring country assumes the right to broadcast toward us on medium or long wave frequencies, then cuba has the right to respond in kind.,+ alarcon said.

the former cuban ambassador to the united nations characterised radio marti as +an invasion of our national sovereignty.+ he said it is +a definitely hostile act and a provocation in the sphere of radio transmissions.+

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the cuban diplomat repeated fidel castro's affirmation made to a u.s. voice of america correspondent here on wednesday that cuba has no intention of jamming radio marti. +but,+ he said, +we cannot permit the united states to attribute to itself a right over our territory that nobody has conceded to it and we are capable of responding and demonstrating that cuba can do the same thing.+

spokesman
alarcon denied state u.s. state department, alan romberg's charge on wednesday that cuba has interfered with u.s. radio broadcasts for more than fifteen years. +that is false, + he declared. +we hvave no cuban stations on medium or long wqave bands that are aimed at the united states.+ alarcon said that some powerful cuban spanish-language stations might be picked up in the united states just as powerful maimi smiami stations are heard in cuba.

+the propagand aims put forward in retgard to radio marti are stupid because propagandsa from the united states enters cuba via radio every day through florida radio states and the foicevoice of america,+ alarcon said. +if there are a people trained to listen to broadcasts from the united states that have provocative and destabilizing aims, thatit is the cuban people.+ +the american people were never subject to such propagandsa, but the cubanp people have been,+ he added

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+radio marti is a bad idea and will be essentially
inefficacious and we don't have to worry when our adversaries
commit such grandiose errors,+ alarcon said.

+the type of reply - our broadcasting to the united states
on regular channels - will make it possible for americans to hear
more cuban music, cuban news broadcasts and other cuban shows,+
alarcon declared.

he said that +the only political importance of radio marti
is that it is an expressive of the aggressive will and
provocative attitude of the present administration in washington.+

the cuban vice minister said that the reagan administrations
policies in central america were more important than radio marti.
+i think that, although it seems incredible, there are
people in the present administration that are ready to repeat the
same error that they committed in vietnam by involving the
united states in a foreign conflict in a policy condemned to
failure,+ alarcon declared.

regarding the normalisation of relations with the united states,
alarcon told reuter, +we have always been in favour of
conversations but it is difficult to converse when the other
side has a bellicose, provocative and aggressive attitude and if
it lacks respect for you.+

+we have resisted the hostile and aggressive policy of the
united states for almost a quarter of a century, + alarcon
said, +and any schoolchild knows that cuba has resisted
successfully.+

-reuter/lem