

City of Havana  
June 15, 1978

Dear Mr. Canaday,

A few days ago I received the letter you sent me dated March 29, 1978. In the first place, I wish to thank you for your friendly greetings and also for the friendly expressions that you sent us in earlier letters.

I can assure you that I know perfectly well the many efforts that you have made with hopes of sending us a sugar cane harvesting machine and the denial of authorization that you have received from your government; in spite of the already realized advances. Also, your planning for the possibility of sending our government five thousand bushels of corn as a gesture of friendship towards our people is a thing that we deeply appreciate and accept; if you finally obtain the authorization for its shipment. I wish to extend our recognition of and greetings to the Board of Commerce of Bloomfield that unanimously directed a petition to your government for permission for the donation of this corn to our people.

There are two aspects of your letter that I feel obliged to answer for you, with the hopes that you and your friends will have the complete truth about these situations. The first deals with our solidarity with and help for the African people. Much has been said and an abundance of propaganda has been put out about this point. I wish to assure you, nevertheless, that this collaboration develops towards countries that have been victims of the most severe oppression and exploitation for centuries; the result of which has been the most infinite poverty, the most absolute illiteracy and the most critical sanitary condition of our planet. Our effort in solidarity, my friend Mr. Canaday, is directed towards many African countries in the areas of agriculture, public health, education and other branches of socio-economic life of these countries. We also collaborate in the military area, always at the invitation of the governments and people that understand our presence there as a real aid in their secular fight against colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and all forms of penetration, oppression and dependence that they so very well know. Our soldiers there fight, sometimes at the expense of their own lives for the right and the reason that assists the African people in aspiring to a more humane, dignified life and to be owners of their own destiny. May you have full security in the knowledge that these are the objectives that have motivated the Cuban Revolution to give the military aid that has been asked of us. We are not searching for any material benefit.

The other point that I wish to refer myself to is the complaint that you have heard that our government definitely approves of the shipment of drugs to the United States. I don't wish to enter into considerations of the solid moral principles which sustain the politics of the revolution nor to explain to you the means taken since the triumph of our revolution in 1959 that definitively ended all the vices and corruptions of the previous society; such as drugs, prostitution and crime. We know the grave situation that confronts the North

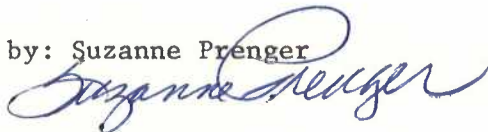
American society with the systematic increase in the consumption of drugs, principally among the youth, according to the official information of your own North American government. If I may, I would like to inform you that in the last few years we have detained and jailed many drug traffickers that come from many different countries of Central and South America and the Carribean, and that have used diverse means of transporting drugs to the U.S.; we have occupied these means and destroyed them. No few people, North Americans included, have been in prision in our country for havng been detained while transporting drugs from these different countries to the U.S. by passing by our coasts or flying over our national territory. Your government knows perfectly well what we have done in this area. I give you this information so that you can know the truth and can, with all the moral right that the truth gives, defend the reality of our role in the miserable practice of drug trafficking.

Please receive my greatest consideration and appreciation.

Yours sincerely,

Fidel Castro Ruz

Translated by: Suzanne Prenger

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne Prenger", written in dark ink over the typed name.