



United States Department of State

*Bureau of
International Communications
and Information Policy*

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 27, 1990

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This refers to your telefax letter IFRB 30D(BCD)/0.2364/89 dated October 11, 1989, to the Federal Communications Commission concerning an assignment to a U.S. broadcasting station and our interim reply of November 17.

You have requested our views with respect to the conformity of our assignment of 1180 kHz to the broadcasting station at Marathon, Florida with No. 2666 of the Radio Regulations, pursuant to a request from the Cuban administration. The United States Administration has reviewed the question and concludes that there is no legitimate basis to question the finding.

The major relevant points considered in our review are as follows:

1. No. 2666 is a general rule to which appropriate exceptions can be made, at the discretion of the administration operating the AM-broadcasting station and consistent with other relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations. The provision has existed for considerable time and a pattern of conduct has emerged over the years among ITU Members and the Board.

2. It is the practice of many ITU Members, including Cuba, to operate broadcasting stations in the MF-band for international and external service, as amply demonstrated in ITU plans and frequency lists (e.g., Rio Plan and the Regions 1 & 3 LF/MF Plan) and in widely used non-ITU publications, such as the World Radio TV Handbook. Radio conferences of all three ITU Regions have accepted these stations (including Marathon) for inclusion in MF-broadcasting plans. This usage is particularly prevalent in Region 2.


Mr. Gary C. Brooks, Chairman,
International Frequency Registration Board,
International Telecommunication Union,
Place des Nations,
Geneva, Switzerland.

3. It would be inappropriate for the IFRB to review a finding on a station assignment which has been operating for more than 25 years in accordance with a regional agreement to which both ITU Members involved in this matter were party, and one which the Board itself processed under a regional plan within the past ten years including a review of the assignment for conformity with the regulations other than with respect to harmful interference.

4. It would be inappropriate for the IFRB to review the finding on the basis of No. 1421b, i.e., on the grounds of actual harmful interference. This Administration has no record of any interference reports from Cuba on 1180 kHz and expects to receive none in light of the circumstances surrounding the bringing into use of this frequency.

I hope that these comments will be useful to the Board in disposing of the Cuban request.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Bleakley
Acting, U.S. Coordinator & Director
International Communication
& Information Policy