

Estudios Sociales

Año 54, Vol. XLIV-Número 165

Enero-junio 2022

Letter from Gérard Pierre-Charles to Ramón Antonio Veras

On 12 June 1976, the Haitian revolutionary writer, professor and revolutionary militant Gérard Pierre-Charles (1935-2004) mailed a letter to Dominican lawyer and human rights activist Ramón Antonio Veras from Mexico. The letter was in response to an earlier exchange between the two Caribbean activists whose efforts aided one another in the fight against dictatorial regimes in both Haiti under the Duvaliers (1957-1990) and Santo Domingo under Balaguer (1966-1978). The letter is quite revealing of the deep ties of friendship, collaboration and solidarity that unite Haitians and Dominicans. Their correspondence represents what may have been the beginning of a close collaboration between two key figures in the struggle for democracy, freedom and socialism on Quisqueya or Hispaniola.

Santiago de los Caballeros

Dear Dr. Veras:

I acknowledge receipt of your kind letter from May 18 that reached me the day before yesterday after returning from a long trip.

I hope that in the meantime you have also received my correspondence from May 12. That these communication attempts have been crossed effectively shows how great the ties that unite us are, despite the fact that we have not had the opportunity to meet yet.

First, I want to reiterate the gratitude that I already expressed to you in my letter cited above for the extremely interesting articles of great importance for the cause of our two peoples that you

have been writing in the prestigious newspaper “El Nacional.” These articles have exceptional value for Haitians since, in my opinion, it is the first time that the Dominican press has produced a testimony as powerful as the one you have been writing. In addition to congratulating you on this initiative, I would like to express fraternal thanks on behalf of all Haitian patriotic sectors for this remarkable display of human and island solidarity.

From now on, knowing your interest in the Haitian cause and your identification with it, I will try to send you any material that comes out related to the Haitian situation. It is necessary to nurture what can be a powerful movement of solidarity from the Dominican people — towards the Haitian people. The future of our island is a future of solidarity and together we must prepare the foundations of this great future solidarity.

I am going to allow myself to send you a copy of my book “Radiography of a Dictatorship” that, although published some time ago in 1969, will provide you with some basic information for a better understanding of the Haitian [political] situation in its entirety.

Once again, I reiterate our deep gratitude for your collaboration and your attitude of solidarity, I assure you that you have me at your service as a friend and as a colleague.

Cordially,

Gérard Pierre-Charles

P.S: Please do not use the old address because it no longer works and by pure chance your letter arrived. Better to write directly to my house:

Avenida Toluca 231
Olivar de los Padres
México 20, D.F.