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The Dean's Welcome Address

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THE CUBAN EMBARGO AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Intercultural Human Rights Law Review Annual Symposium

October 24, 2008

THE DEAN'S WELCOME ADDRESS

DEAN ALFREDO GARCIA *

Thank you very much, Yara Lorenzo. I want to again reiterate my thanks to Professor Siegfried Wiessner, Slava Borshchukov, Yara Lorenzo, and all the members of the *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*. I know how hard you have worked on putting together this wonderful symposium. This symposium is especially dear to my heart because I came to the States in 1962, the year that the embargo was imposed, as a Cuban immigrant. I think you will enjoy these panels. Indeed, it is a diverse set of panels that will explore every facet of the Cuban Embargo, from the historical, socio-economic and legal aspects of the Embargo, as well as offering predictions and recommendations for the future.

I also want to reiterate what Monsignor Casale briefly mentioned in his welcoming remarks, and that is his emphasis on our wonderful program in Intercultural Human Rights. I have been privileged to teach in that program since its inception in 2001, and I am proud to say there have been over 260 students enrolled in the program since its inception, from over 50 different countries of the world. I think that is remarkable given the fact that we are less than 25 years old.

I also am very pleased that we have the foremost authority in international law here with us, Professor Michael Reisman. On a personal note, I missed probably one of the best educational opportunities in my career, when I was in my last year of law school at the University of Florida because Professor Reisman was a visiting professor at the time. Somehow the schedule did not permit me to take International Law with Professor Reisman in that semester and

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my best friend, who was enrolled in the course, told me I had missed a great course.

But I was very privileged, since he is the Myres McDougal Professor of International Law at Yale, to meet Myres McDougal, who was a remarkable individual, one of the best minds that I ever had the privilege of encountering. And I will never forget my conversation with Professor McDougal and speaking with him about the great political theorist Harold Lasswell, who formed a great bond with Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and having a pleasant and intellectually stimulating conversation with Professor McDougal at Dean Hunt's house at the time. So we are very happy to have you here, Professor. I must apologize in advance for not being here to witness your receiving the Human Rights Award because I have another commitment with the Florida Board of Bar Examiners tonight that I have to attend. So, in advance, I apologize. You are richly deserving of that award.

With that, welcome, and I am sure you will enjoy the stimulating panels that have been put together today. Thank you very much.