

# AUSTRALIA CUBA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

## Melbourne Branch Newsletter

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER



Contact us via email: [admin@melbourneacfs.org](mailto:admin@melbourneacfs.org)

[www.melbourneacfs.org](http://www.melbourneacfs.org)

Dear Comrades,

This year has been bizarre, one that most of us would like to forget. Now starting to slowly unwind, thank god. Having said that, I believe the attacks on Daniel Andrews are disgraceful, which says more about the Liberals and their right-wing viciousness than it does about Andrews, a viciousness which extends into their policy-making decisions where universities, artists and workers are the enemy. Part of class warfare intensifying as labour rights continue to be violated. As someone said, the problem with political jokes is that they tend to get elected.

I laugh when people talk about returning to 'normalcy'. Normalcy brought us the Iraq War, the War on Terror, the War on Drugs, torture, assassination by drone, billionaires, homelessness, gutting of welfare, wiretaps, militarised police, fracking, and let loose a psychotic American Empire on the world, with us crawling along behind. And the Defence Legislation Amendment, already passed by the House of Reps, is about to pounce. This latest repressive nightmare aims to regulate the call out of defence forces responding to natural disasters, a bill that fails to define 'other emergencies' but permits foreign armies and police forces to be brought in to 'help us', doesn't restrict their use of force and gives them high levels of immunity under our laws. Emergencies' could include industrial disputes, demonstrations, and other protest actions that are perfectly legal if we lived in a democracy. For good measure, the government has extended ASIO powers even more, where journalists, environmentalists and advocacy groups could face compulsory questioning and being fitted with tracking devices.

'Democracy' is popular because of the illusion of choice and participation it provides, but when you live in a society like ours where most people's knowledge of the world extends no further than sports, sitcoms, reality shows and celebrity gossip, it's downright dangerous. Until people are properly educated and informed, democracy is nothing more than a clever tool used by the ruling class to subjugate the rest of us. Noam Chomsky, who can't get published in his own country, put it this way: 'It is regrettably, no exaggeration to say that we are living in an era of irrationality, deception, confusion, anger, and unfocussed fear - an ominous combination, with few precedents. There has never been a time when it was so important to have a voice of sanity, insight, understanding of what is happening in the world...' In the 30s, the Germans thought they were free, ignoring the ever-widening gap between the government and the people. It took place so gradually, each step so small and inconsequential and

disguised as a temporary emergency measure, that people failed to see what was going on beneath the surface.

When the US entered WW2, the future head of the CIA, Allen Dulles, bemoaned that his country was fighting the wrong enemy. The Nazis, he explained, were pro-capitalist Aryan Christians, whereas the true enemy was godless communism and its resolute anti-capitalism. After all, the US, only some 20 years earlier, had been part of a massive military intervention in the USSR when fourteen capitalist countries sought to 'strangle the Bolshevik baby in its crib'. Dulles understood, like many of his Government colleagues, that what would later become known as the Cold War was actually the old war against communism - and has never stopped.

The danger, as Orwell wrote, is in the language. The sterilisation of words where meanings are cleansed and honed down. Torture is what other people do, whereas 'we' use 'enhanced interrogation techniques'. Propaganda is what others do, we 'promote democracy'. Like war, we prefer 'pre-emptive actions to defend ourselves' and engage in 'targeted strikes to remove threats' instead of assassinations. Bombing raids on Iraq, Libya and Syria were 'humanitarian missions'. The double-talk is everywhere. People like Chavez and Castro who redistributed wealth to the poor were 'corrupt' while western politicians taking jobs on the boards of banks, pharmaceutical companies and arms manufacturers are trying to make the world a better place. A case of 'tell the truth if you dare', like Julian Assange who dared. And we've seen what's happened to him. Tortured so that his pain and suffering acts as a warning to others in case they want to warn us that the people we elected are corrupt, dishonest killers.

It's hardly news that the 800 US military bases in more than 70 countries around the globe have played a fundamental role in turning the entire world into a bloody battlefield, a massive military presence unlike anything we've ever seen before but rarely acknowledged, and a major reason why the US has consistently been in a state of war or military invasion for almost every year of its existence. Once, weapons were manufactured to fight wars. Now wars are manufactured to sell weapons.

From George Orwell: 'The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak it.' So speak out even louder, dear friends...

**Joan Coxsedge, Commentaor-in-Chief,  
Melbourne ACFS, (03) 9857 9249**



*Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia*



## **Celebrating 60 years of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People**

In November this year the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People (ICAP) will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Australia has a rich and long relationship with ICAP and we would like to pay tribute to this ongoing relationship. One of the major expressions of that relationship has been the annual Australian/New Zealand Southern Cross Brigade which began in the early 1980s. These brigades provide opportunities for visitors to gain insight into the uniqueness of Cuba's unfolding socialist system, giving depth and meaning to building international solidarity.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of travel over the next several months, it is not possible to proceed with this year's 2020 brigade. However, to continue building solidarity and demonstrate our support for Cuba, the Queensland Branch have come up with a great idea to celebrate the 60th anniversary of ICAP.

It is a joint project that involves ACFS members, supporters and past brigadistas sending in photos, short stories, newspaper clippings and other suitable materials related to previous brigades and our ongoing relationship with ICAP. Each branch will collect responses and materials for posting on ICAP's Facebook page and for other online projects/publications later in the year.

The collection of materials will be managed by each branch, so we are inviting members and friends to send digital copies of any photos, posters, anecdotes, leaflets etc that you may have, related to our work with ICAP and the Brigades. We are hoping to get as much material as possible and anything you have to share would be greatly appreciated.

Digital contributions can be attached to an email. Please include the following information in your email:

- ⇒ Your Name
- ⇒ Email address
- ⇒ Contact Phone No.
- ⇒ Name of item/s that you consent to share
- ⇒ The owner/photographer/author

Please send contributions to Maree Dellora,  
[admin@melbourneacfs.org](mailto:admin@melbourneacfs.org)



---

# Cuba elected to Human Rights Council by 88% of UN Members

**This is the fifth time Cuba has been chosen to occupy a seat within this body, among the eight reserved for the Latin American and Caribbean group of member states**

U.S. manipulation and coercion have once again failed. Their desperate efforts to organize a boycott of the election of Cuba as a member of the UN Human Rights Council went nowhere and Cuba was elected, for the fifth time, yesterday, with the votes of 170 countries, to occupy a seat within this body, among the eight reserved for the Latin American and Caribbean group of member states.

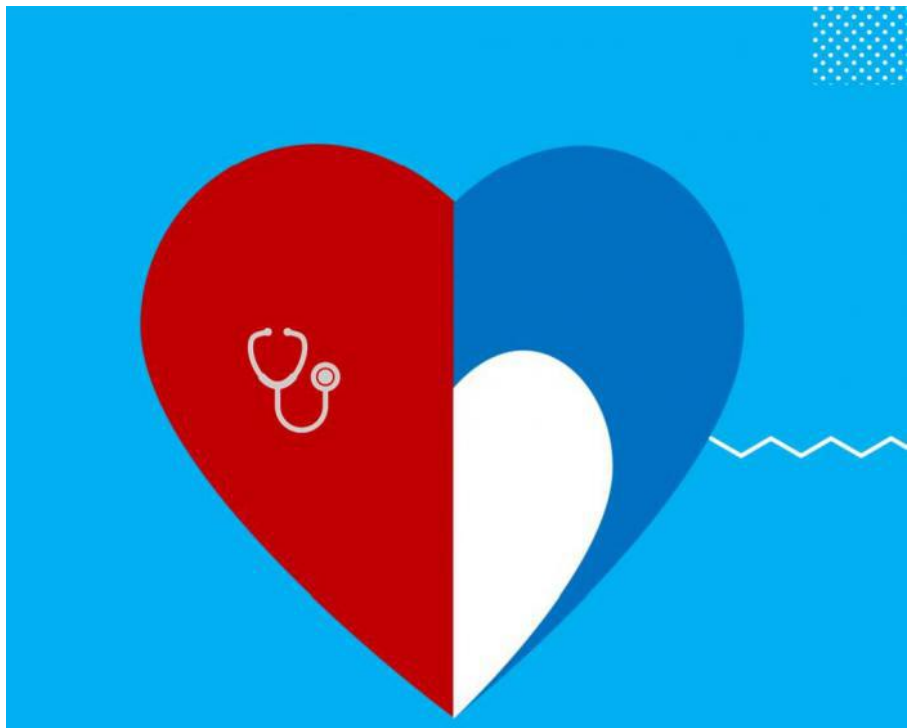
"Despite imperialist lies and distortion, the world recognizes Cuba, admires and respects the country for the firmness of our convictions and example. A resounding victory," tweeted President of the Republic

Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, upholding the humanist work of the Revolution, which has promoted human rights on the basis of its very nature and principles.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla also took to Twitter to insist, "Cuba's achievements cannot be overshadowed."

The support of 88% of UN members states represents a tribute to the self-determination and resistance of the Cuban people in the face of the serious obstacles and threats caused by the unilateral policy of hostility, aggressions and economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States, a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of human rights.

The Foreign Ministry noted on its website that the vote is an expression of recognition by the international community of the significant advances the country has achieved in the enjoyment of human rights and the extensive record of worldwide cooperation, demonstrating, through concrete action, the unequivocal willingness to participate in respectful, frank and open dialogue. Cuba is party to 44 of 61 international human rights instruments, reporting regularly to the UN on our compliance.



<http://en.granma.cu/cuba/2020-10-14/cuba-elected-to-human-rights-council-by-88-of-un-members>



*Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia*



# Cuba and Russia Strengthen Commercial & Financial Ties

**Cuban authorities recently held talks with Russian business executives and members of the Russian government.**

The Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba, Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, held a diplomatic meeting with various authorities of the Russian government and business people of that country to strengthen bilateral relations.

During their tour of the Eurasian nation, the Cuban authorities spoke with the directors of the GAZ Group and the real estate investment company, Sinara Group.

The First Vice-minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, Ana Teresita González, member of the Cuban delegation, said that during the meetings, the group had exposed the importance of strengthening cooperation in economic, commercial, and financial matters.

"Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz held fruitful meetings with directors of the GAZ and Sinara Groups, and the state-owned corporations' Railways of Russia and Rosaviatsia, all of them linked to important cooperation projects with Cuba in the field of transportation," said González in her Twitter account.

During the series of meetings, the representatives of the Caribbean island participated in the meeting with the co-presidents of the Cuba-Russia Intergovernmental Commission through a videoconference of the Eurasian Economic Commission, intending to be admitted as an Observer State of the regional body.

"Cuba explained the elements that support its application as an Observer State of the Eurasian Economic Union in a videoconference with representatives of the member states of this organization, based on the opportunity it means for our cooperation and complementarity," Gonzalez stated.

Among other issues, the agenda addressed the economic recovery of both nations through cooperation after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Accompanying Cabrisas and Gonzalez in the Cuban delegation were Cuban ambassador to Russia, Julio Garmendia, general director for bilateral affairs in Cuba's foreign ministry, Emilio Lozada Garcia; director of Cuba's Central Bank, Isaac Hernandez Perez; and other Cuban government officials.

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Cuba-and-Russia-Strengthen-Commercial-and-Financial-Ties20200924-0008.html#comsup>



*Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia*

---

# President Diaz-Canel highlights friendship between Cuba and China

Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel described on Sunday diplomatic relations between the country and China as an elementary act of historic justice.

On Twitter, the president recalled that Cuba was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to establish relations with the People's Republic of China.

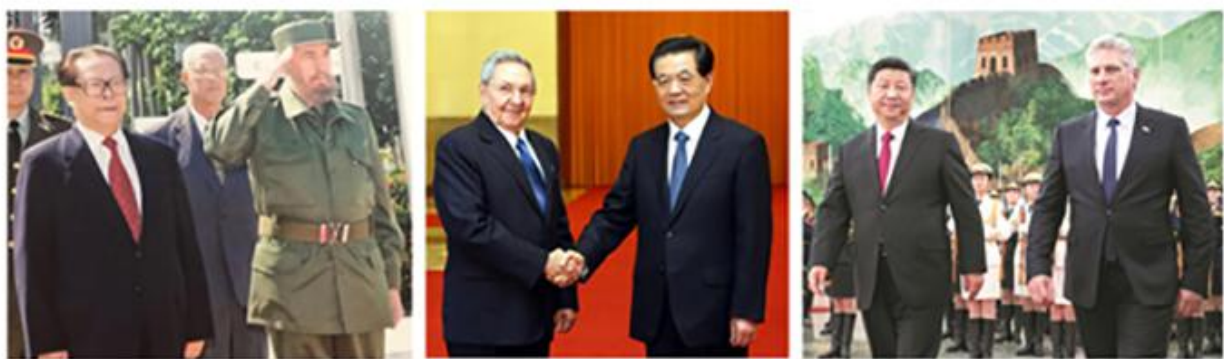
'We are honored by our friendship with China. It is an expression of the independence of our foreign policy,' the head of State tweeted.

Both countries celebrate this year the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. As part of the activities to pay tribute to the date, a commemorative medal, made by the China Foundation for Peace and Development, and the Zhongyulidu Cultural Enterprise, was unveiled in Beijing.

Likewise, a special issue of Lookwe magazine was launched, as well as an edition of Cuban articles and a collection of Pu'er (red) tea with artisan cups and teapots.

In addition to the official receptions, the festive plan will run until October with academic seminars, a workshop on economic-commercial relations and activities that will also serve as a tribute to Cuban culture.

On September 28, 1960, the historic leader of the Revolution, Fidel Castro, proposed the cessation of ties with the refugee government in Taiwan, to establish links with the People's Republic of China that had triumphed in 1949 under the command of Mao Zedong.



*The diplomatic relations developed by Cuba and China have always been defended at the highest level of leadership: Pictured are Fidel with Jiang Zemin (November, 1993), Raúl with Hu Jintao (July, 2012) and Díaz-Canel with Xi Jinping (November, 2018).*

<https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=m&id=60198&SEO=president-diaz-canel-highlights-friendship-between-cuba-and-china>





# In Bolivia, MAS is more

## The Movement Toward Socialism's Presidential candidate, Luis Arce

<http://en.granma.cu/mundo/2020-10-20/in-bolivia-mas-is-more>



The Movement Toward Socialism's Presidential candidate, Luis Arce, defeated his closest rival, October 19, by more than 20 percentage points.

The Bolivian people demonstrated that truth, dignity and struggle were not lost with the military coup, nor with the atrocities committed by the de facto government installed last year.

The overwhelming victory of the Movement Toward Socialism's (MAS) Presidential candidate, Luis Arce, who defeated his closest rival, October 19, by more than 20 percentage points, shattered the right-wing illusion that they could join forces to win in a second round.

"Congratulations to MAS, which has recovered, at the polls, the power that was usurped by the oligarchy, with the complicity of the OAS and imperialist guidance," tweeted Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, early on Election Day, welcoming the news, and emphasizing: "Cuba shares the joy for Luis Arce's victory... the Bolivarian ideal is reborn."

Toward the end of the afternoon, the winner responded with heartfelt thanks: "Thank you President Miguel Díaz-Canel. The united people decided, with the vote, the return of economic, social and political stability. Today we share the same joy, because our people have regained hope."

The results of the vote expose the farce mounted after the 2019 elections by the Organization of

American States (OAS), the Lima Group and the United States, which led to the military coup, the departure of Evo Morales and repression that cost the lives of more than 30 Bolivians.

So forceful was the will of the people that de facto President, Jeanine Áñez, had no choice but to recognize MAS. Arce, in his first public comments after the victory, emphasized that he intends to construct a government of national unity, and redirect the process of change without hatred, learning from and overcoming past errors.

Along with his running mate, David Choquehuanca, he has the moral authority and experience to reverse the neo-liberal nightmare imposed following the military coup. The economic disaster protected by Áñez, aggravated by poor management of the pandemic, widespread corruption, and the handing over of natural resources and factories to large corporations injured the dignity of the people who opted for the peace of the ballot box.

Once in office - but attentive to the shadowy plans with which enemies will surely react, inside and outside the country - the new government will face the complex, challenging task of uniting political forces; strengthening the people's confidence; charting the course for economic and social development; correcting the response to COVID-19, to control outbreaks and deaths; and restoring sovereignty and the international relations destroyed by the coup plotters.



Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia

---

# Speech by the President of the Republic of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez - General Debate of the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly

**Our people, who take pride in our history and are committed to the ideals and achievements of the Revolution, will resist and triumph.**

The attempts at imposing neo-colonial domination on Our America by publicly declaring the present value of the Monroe Doctrine contravene the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace

Mr. President,

A global pandemic has changed everyday life drastically. From one day to the next, millions of people are infected and thousands die, even though life expectancy is longer thanks to development. Hospital systems with high-level services have collapsed and the health systems of poor countries are affected by their chronic lack of capacity. Drastic quarantines are turning the most populated cities into deserted areas. Social life is non-existent except on digital networks. Theatres, nightclubs, galleries and even schools are closed or on limited schedules.

Our borders have been closed, our economies are shrinking and our reserves are dwindling. Life is experiencing a radical redesigning of age-old ways and uncertainty is replacing certainty. Even close friends cannot recognize each other due to the masks that protect us from contagion. Everything is changing.

As well as finding a solution to the pandemic, the democratization of this indispensable Organization is urgently needed, to effectively meet the needs and aspirations of all peoples.

The longed-for right of humanity to live in peace and security, with justice and freedom, the basis for unity among nations, is constantly under threat.

Over 1.9 trillion dollars are being squandered today in a senseless arms race promoted by the aggressive, war-mongering policies of imperialism, whose leader is the present U.S. government, which is responsible for 38 percent of global military expenditures.

We are referring to an extremely aggressive, morally corrupt regime that dismisses and attacks multilateralism, uses financial coercion in its relations with the UN system agencies and that, showing unprecedented arrogance, has withdrawn from the World Health Organization, UNESCO and the Human Rights Council.

Paradoxically, the country where the UN headquarters is located has withdrawn from fundamental international treaties such as the Paris Agreement on climate change; rejects the nuclear agreement with Iran reached by consensus; promotes trade wars; ends its commitment to international disarmament instruments; militarizes cyberspace; expands coercion and unilateral sanctions against those who do not bend to its designs and sponsors attempts to forcibly overthrow sovereign governments through non-conventional war methods.

This line of action, which ignores recognized principles of peaceful co-existence and respect for the right of others to self-determination as the guarantee of peace, the Donald Trump administration is also manipulating, with subversive



purposes, cooperation in the sphere of democracy and human rights, while in its own territory practically uncontrolled expressions of hatred, racism, and police brutality abound, as well as irregularities in the election system and violations of citizens' voting rights.

Reform of the UN is urgently needed. This powerful organization - which emerged after the loss of millions of lives in two world wars and as a result of a global understanding of the importance of dialogue, negotiation, cooperation and international law - must not postpone any longer its updating and democratization. The UN is needed in today's world, just as much as it was needed when it came into existence.

Something very special and profound has failed, as evidenced by constant daily violations of the UN Charter's principles, and by the ever-increasing use or threat of use of force in international relations.

There is no way to sustain any longer, as if it were natural and immovable, an unequal, unjust and anti-democratic international order, in which selfishness prevails over solidarity and the miserly interests of a powerful minority over the legitimate aspirations of millions of people.

Despite the dissatisfaction and demands for change, which we present to the UN along with other states and millions of citizens around the world, the Cuban Revolution will always uphold the existence of the Organization, to which we owe the little but indispensable multilateralism that has survived imperial arrogance.

More than once, in this very forum, Cuba has reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the democratization of the UN and the upholding of international cooperation, which only it is capable of saving. As stated by the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, and I quote: "The international community can always count on Cuba's honest voice in the face of injustice, inequality, underdevelopment, discrimination and manipulation, and for the establishment of a more just and equitable international order, in which human beings, their dignity and wellbeing come first."

Mr. President,

Returning to the seriousness of the present situation, which many blame only on the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe it is imperative to note that its impact goes far beyond the health sphere.

Given its nefarious consequences, the shocking number of deaths, damage to the world economy, and the deterioration of social development, the pandemic's continued proliferation over the last few months has caused anguish and despair among leaders and citizens in practically all nations.

But the multidimensional crisis it has unleashed clearly shows the erroneous nature of the dehumanizing policies imposed by the dictatorship of the market.

Today, we are witnessing with sadness the disaster to which the world has been led by the irrational, unsustainable production and consumption patterns of capitalism, decades of an unjust international order, and the implementation of ruthless, unfettered neoliberalism, which has exacerbated inequalities and sacrificed the right of peoples to development.

Unlike exclusionary neoliberalism, which casts aside and divides millions of human beings and condemns them to surviving on the leftovers from the banquet of the richest one percent, the COVID-19 virus does not discriminate, but its devastating economic and social effects are lethal for the most vulnerable and those with lower incomes, whether they live in the underdeveloped world or in pockets of poverty within large industrial cities.

Our people, who take pride in our history and are committed to the ideals and achievements of the Revolution, will resist and triumph.





---

According to projections by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the 690 million people going hungry in 2019 will be joined by another 130 million as a result of the economic recession caused by the pandemic. Studies by the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicate that over 305 million jobs have been lost and that those of more than 1.6 billion workers are at stake.

We cannot confront COVID-19, hunger, unemployment and growing economic and social inequality between individuals and countries as unrelated phenomena. Urgently needed is the implementation of comprehensive, integrated policies that prioritize human beings, not profits or political interests.

It would be a crime to postpone decisions needed yesterday, and today. It is imperative to promote solidarity and international cooperation to mitigate the impact.

Only the UN, with its global membership, has the required authority and reach to resume the just struggle to cancel the uncollectable foreign debt which, aggravated by the social and economic effects of the pandemic, is threatening the survival of the peoples of the South.

Mr. President,

The emergence of SARS-COV-2 and the early signs that it would bring a pandemic did not catch Cuba off guard. With decades of experience in facing terrible epidemics, some of which were provoked deliberately as part of the permanent war against our political project, we immediately implemented a series of measures based on our principal strengths and capabilities, namely, a well-structured socialist state that cares for the health of its citizens, highly-skilled human capital, and a society with a high level of participation by the people in making decisions and solving problems.

The implementation of these measures, combined with the knowledge accrued over 60 years of great effort to create and expand our high-quality, universal healthcare system, as well as scientific research and development, has allowed us to preserve the right to health of all citizens, without exception, and put us in better condition to confront the pandemic.

We have been able to do so in spite of the harsh limitations created by the longstanding economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. government, which has been brutally tightened over the last two years, even during these times of pandemic, clear evidence that it is the fundamental component of the U.S. government's hostile policy toward Cuba.

The aggressiveness of the blockade has reached a qualitatively higher level that further confirms its role as a concrete, determinant impediment to the functioning of our economy and the development of our country. The U.S. government has intensified, in particular, its harassment of Cuban financial transactions and, beginning in 2019, has adopted measures that violate international law by depriving the Cuban people the possibility of purchasing the fuels needed for everyday activities and development.

With the intention of damaging and demonizing the Cuban Revolution, and others it defines as adversaries, the U.S. has published spurious lists, with no legitimacy whatsoever, assuming the right to impose unilateral coercive measures and unfounded categorizations on the world.

Not a week goes by that this administration does not issue a statement attacking Cuba or imposing new restrictions. Paradoxically, it has refused to describe as terrorist the attack on the Cuban embassy in Washington on April 30, 2020, when an individual armed with an assault rifle fired over 30 rounds on the diplomatic mission and later admitted his intention to kill.

We denounce the double standards of the U.S. government in the fight against terrorism and demand a public condemnation of this brutal attack.

We demand an end to the hostility and slanderous campaign against the altruistic work of Cuba's international medical cooperation that, with much prestige and verifiable results, has contributed to saving hundreds of lives and reducing the impact of the disease in many countries. Prominent international figures and highly prestigious social organizations have acknowledged the humanistic work of the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade for Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics and called for awarding them the Nobel Peace Prize.



---

While the U.S. government ignores appeals to combine efforts to fight the pandemic and is withdrawing from the WHO, Cuba, in response to requests received and guided by the profound solidarity and humanistic vocation of our people, is expanding cooperation, sending over 3,700 professionals in 46 medical brigades to 39 countries and territories facing COVID-19.

In this context, we condemn the gangster extortion with which the United States has pressured the Pan-American Health Organization in an attempt to utilize this regional agency as an instrument of its obsessive aggression against our country. The strength of the truth will always overpower lies, and history will put events and leaders in their rightful place. Cuba's example will prevail.

Our dedicated health workers, the pride of a nation raised in José Martí's conviction that homeland is humanity, will be awarded the prize their noble hearts deserve, or not; but years ago, they won the recognition of the peoples blessed by their healthcare work.

The U.S. government is not hiding its intention to enforce new and harsher aggressive measures against Cuba during the next few months. We state once again before the international community that our people, who take pride in our history and are committed to the ideals and achievements of the Revolution, will resist and triumph.

Mr. President,

Attempts to impose neo-colonial domination in Our America by publicly declaring the current relevance of the Monroe Doctrine contravene the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

We wish to restate publicly, in this virtual forum, that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will always have the solidarity of Cuba in the face of attempts to destabilize and subvert their constitutional order and the civic-military unity and destroy the work begun by Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías and continued by President Nicolás Maduro Moros to benefit the Venezuelan people.

We also reject U.S. actions intended to destabilize the Republic of Nicaragua and reaffirm our invariable solidarity with its people and the government led by Comandante Daniel Ortega.

We reiterate our solidarity with Caribbean nations, which are demanding just reparations for the horrors of slavery and the slave trade, in a world in which racial discrimination and repression in Afro-descendant communities is on the rise.

We reaffirm our historical commitment to the self-determination and independence of the sister people of Puerto Rico.

We support the legitimate claim by Argentina to sovereignty over the Malvinas, the South Sandwich and South Georgia islands.

We reconfirm our commitment to peace in Colombia and the conviction that dialogue between the parties is the road to achieving stable, lasting peace in that country.

We support the search for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the situation imposed on Syria, with no foreign interference and full respect of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We demand a just solution to the conflict in the Middle East, which must include the real exercise by the Palestinian people of the inalienable right to build their own state within its pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. We reject Israel's attempts to annex more territory in the West Bank.

“Doctors, not bombs,” was once demanded by the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution and chief promoter of scientific development in Cuba: Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz. This is our maxim.



---

We state our solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of escalating U.S. aggression.

We reaffirm our invariable solidarity with the Sahrawi people.

We strongly condemn unilateral and unjust sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We restate our rejection of the intention to expand NATO's presence to Russian borders and the imposition of unilateral and unjust sanctions on Russia.

We reject foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Belarus and reiterate our solidarity with the legitimate President of the country, Aleksandr Lukashenko, and the sister people of Belarus.

We condemn interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China and oppose any attempt to infringe on its territorial integrity or sovereignty.

Mr. President,

Today's disturbing circumstances have led to the fact that, for the first time in the 75-year history of the United Nations, we have been obliged to meet in non-presential format.

Cuba's scientific community - which has been a source of pride for the nation since the triumph of the Revolution of the just announced to the world our intention to be a country of men and women of science - is working non-stop on one of the first vaccines in the world to begin clinical trials.

Its creators and other researchers and experts, in coordination with the public health system, have developed protocols for treatment of infected persons, recovered patients and the at-risk population, which have allowed us to maintain epidemiological statistics with approximately 80% of infected persons recovering and a mortality rate below the average in the Americas and the world.

"Doctors, not bombs," was once demanded by the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution and chief promoter of scientific development in Cuba: Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz. This is our maxim. Saving lives and sharing what we are and have, no matter the sacrifice; this is what we are offering to the world from the United Nations, of which we only request change as required by the gravity of the moment.



*Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez*

We are Cuba.

Let us strive together to promote peace, solidarity and development.

Thank you very much.

<http://en.granma.cu/cuba/2020-09-22/speech-by-the-president-of-the-republic-of-cuba-miguel-diaz-canel-bermudez-at-the-general-debate-of-the-75th-session-of-the-unga>



*Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia*

# TUNE IN to LATIN AMERICAN UPDATE

The official program of the ACFS  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10.30 AM

3CR  
Community  
Radio

855 AM

## CUBA NEEDS YOU!

### Join the Australia Cuba Friendship Society

The Australia-Cuba Friendship Society aims to promote and encourage friendship, understanding and cultural exchange between the peoples of Australia and Cuba.

We support the Cuban people by raising awareness of the illegal economic and political blockade imposed by the US in its attempts to subvert the revolutionary achievements of the Cuban people in their own country and abroad.

*You can become a member by:*

- joining online at [www.melbourneacfs.org](http://www.melbourneacfs.org)  
or
- filling in the membership slip below and returning it with your cheque/money order to:  
ACFS, PO Box 1051, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066

## CURRENT MEMBERS

You can now pay your annual membership online.

### Direct Transfer Banking Details

ACCOUNT NAME:

Australia Cuba Friendship Society  
Victorian Branch

BSB No.: 063011

ACCOUNT No.: 00900817

BANK:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Join the Australia Cuba Friendship Society

## ACFS Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to join the ACFS - \$30 (full membership), \$15 (concession)  
Newsletter preference (*please tick one*) ☐ Email ☐ Mail

☐ I am interested in the annual work/study trip to Cuba. Please send me information.

☐ I wish to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the ACFS campaign for Cuba.

Please send this membership form and your cheque/money order to:  
ACFS PO Box 1051, Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia



Promoting Friendship between the People of Cuba and Australia