



# US Congressional Delegation Favor Improvement of Ties with Cuba

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HAVANA, Cuba, Feb 21 (ACN) A bipartisan delegation from the US Congress expressed on Wednesday in Havana the need to improve relations between Cuba and the United States and criticized the hostile policy of the current administration of President Donald Trump.

During a press conference at the US embassy in Havana, the delegation headed by Senator Patrick Leahy insisted in the continuation of the process towards the normalization of relations initiated by former President Barack Obama in 2014.

The also Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee said that he disagrees with Trump's decision of restricting travel to Cuba, which "eventually will hurt both countries".

Regarding the alleged sonic attacks reported by US diplomats in Havana, Leahy recognized the cooperation offered by the Cuban government aimed at clarifying the incident while stressing that it was a mistake to reduce the personnel at the US embassy in Havana and the expulsion of the Cuban diplomats from its embassy in Washington DC.

Representative from Massachusetts, Jim McGovern questioned the travel warnings to Cuba issued by the US State Department to its citizens and pointed out that he is currently visiting the Caribbean island with his family, example of the safety the island offers its foreign visitors.

McGovern also called in continuing bilateral dialog in areas like security, law, migration, health and scientific

cooperation, in addition to cultural and educational exchanges.

Our relation with Cuba has been guided by paranoia for too long, he said, and called the current administration not to repeat the "stupid" and "hostile" policy that was headed by successive US governments for over 50 years towards the Caribbean island.

Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon stressed the importance for the Trump administration to stop returning to the policies of the Cold War that never made sense and urged for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington to Havana for over five decades.

Before returning to the US Wednesday afternoon and as part of a two-day visit to Havana, President Raul Castro welcomed the Congressional delegation on Tuesday and both sides exchanged on issues of interests for both countries.

Among other activities, the US Legislators' agenda included a meeting with the new General Director of the US Division of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Carlos Fernandez de Cossio who thanked the Congressional delegation for their efforts in attempting to improve relations between the two countries.

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