

**Committee:** Organization of American States

**Issue:** The reintegration of Cuba into the inner-American system

**Student Officer:** Medha Nagpal

**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

It is my honor to be one of your deputy president's for the Organization of American States committee for this year's 8<sup>th</sup> ATSMUN Conference (Hybrid). My name is Medha Nagpal and I am 18 years old. I am an IB2 student attending the International School of Athens (ISA). My interest in MUN began shortly following the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and I've been actively engaged in taking part in MUN conferences ever since.

Following this note, I would like to begin with congratulating you for taking part in this conference by giving yourself an opportunity to expand your knowledge regarding essential global issues and current affairs, as well as simultaneously working in close collaboration with others to provide plausible solutions for them. In my personal experience, MUN is a wonderful and an extremely beneficial experience for participants. Not only does it only raise awareness about urgent global issues that need to be addressed, but participants are simultaneously gaining multiple critical skills, such as developing more holistic perspective of problems and the world around them, improved communication and debating skills as most importantly getting to meet and connect with new people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The following study guide succeeds to provide you with essential information on the topic of the reintegration of Cuba into the inner-American system, however, I would like to stress that by no means does this guide provides everything you need to know in order to be fully prepared for the debate. It is highly recommended to perform your own research regarding your delegation and the country's policy. That being said, if there are any questions regarding this topic, the rules of procedure or the conference in general, please feel free to email me at: [mnagpal@students.isa.edu.gr](mailto:mnagpal@students.isa.edu.gr)

Looking forward to meeting you all!

Best regards,  
Medha Nagpal

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The relationship between Cuba and OAS has been complex to mention the least. From being on the sixth number for the world's most sanctioned countries to having a 60 yearlong sanction proposed from the United States, the OAS's ultimate composition for including Cuba into the inter-American system remains undefined at the moment. Many aspects require to fall into consideration when debating to find solutions to this topic including possessing substantial knowledge about the history of the relationship of Cuba with OAS etc.

OAS was formed on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1948, with Cuba being one of the founding members. However, despite that, it was kicked out of the organization on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1962. The reason of the island nation getting suspended was due to its Marxist-Leninist government being regarded as "incompatible" with the inner-American system. However, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009, the Organization of the American States adopted the resolution AG/RES<sup>1</sup> which resolved the exclusion resolution adopted in 1962. Cuba's relations have been complicated over the years with the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War playing a vital role. Complications began to take place just after the Cuban Revolution where Fidel Castro overthrew President Fulgencio Batista. The sanctions of the U.S. against Cuba currently still remain in place, despite other aspects of their diplomatic relationship getting more strict or lenient over the years.

This topic requires to be addressed and is of an utmost relevance since a better relationship between the OAS and Cuba can greatly benefit both nations by Cuba providing with better trading routes and in return, the U.S. providing with funds for the nation to become more economically stable. Moreover, Cuban economy deteriorating by the year without any support from the other OAS nations due to the red scare propaganda from the United States requires to be solved in order to the nation to not suffer greatly by crime and poverty in the region.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) has implemented a new UN SDG Cooperation Framework that is to be implemented from the year of 2020-2024. This framework is aligned to four axes of the PNDES, including the strategic areas of: effective government addressing the territorial development, strategic system and social participation of its products and effects; natural resources and environment focusing on natural resources, environmental quality and ecosystem, climate change etc.; productive transformation working on production chains, agri-food systems, quality employment, sustainable energy, development and financing; and human development with equity that will consider among its

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution on Cuba - JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20695948>.

priorities such as social services, care systems and social protection, food access and consumption, safe habitat and monitoring of nutritional security and food.<sup>2</sup>

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Agrarian

“Relating to the ownership and use of land, especially farmland, or relation to the part of a society or economy that is concerned with agriculture”<sup>3</sup>

### Bilateral

“Bilateral negotiations, meetings or agreements involve only the two groups or countries that are directly concerned”<sup>4</sup>

### Capitalism

“An economic and political system in which a country’s trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state”<sup>5</sup>

### Coup d’état

“A sudden decisive exercise of force in politics, especially the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> “UNSDG | UN in Action - Cuba.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/cuba>.

<sup>3</sup> “Agrarian Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Agrarian Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/agrarian>.

<sup>4</sup> “Bilateral Ties Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Bilateral Ties Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/bilateral-ties>.

<sup>5</sup> “Capitalism Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes: Oxford Advanced American Dictionary at Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com.” *Capitalism Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced American Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com*, [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american\\_english/capitalism#:~:text=noun-,noun,in%20the%20West%20compare%20socialism](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/capitalism#:~:text=noun-,noun,in%20the%20West%20compare%20socialism).

<sup>6</sup> “Coup D’état Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coup%20d%27%C3%A9tat>.

## Coup de grâce

“An action or an event that finally destroys something”<sup>7</sup> After many attempts of Fidel Castro revolting against Fulgencio Batista and gaining power from the Cuban citizens to join him in the revolts, his power grew stronger and Castro was ready to deliver coup de grâce, the final move to overthrow Batista and his inner circle.

## Embargo

“An official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country.”<sup>8</sup> The United States of America imposed an embargo on Cuba in the year of 1962, making Cuba the sixth most sanctioned country in the world, as of 2022.

## Executive Order

“A rule or order issued by the president to an executive branch of the government and having the force of law.”<sup>9</sup>

## Guerrilla

“A member of a small group of soldiers who are not part of an official army and who fight against official soldiers, usually to try to change the government”<sup>10</sup>

## Sanctions

“Political measures that aim to demonstrate displeasure with or disapproval of certain actions, stopping short of taking economic or military steps. Such sanctions generally involve

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<sup>7</sup> “Coup De Grace Definition and Meaning: Collins English Dictionary.” *Coup De Grace Definition and Meaning* | Collins English Dictionary, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/coup-de-grace>.

<sup>8</sup> “Oxford Languages and Google - English.” *Oxford Languages*, <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>.

<sup>9</sup> “The Home of Language Data.” *Oxford Languages*, <https://languages.oup.com/>.

<sup>10</sup> “Guerrilla.” | *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com*, [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/guerrilla\\_1#:~:text=guerrilla-noun,try%20to%20change%20the%20government](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/guerrilla_1#:~:text=guerrilla-noun,try%20to%20change%20the%20government).

reducing or removing diplomatic ties, such as eliminating embassies or cancelling high-level government meetings.”<sup>11</sup>

## Socialism

“Social and economic doctrine that calls for public rather than private ownership or control of property and natural resources”<sup>12</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### The Cuban Revolution

Fidel Castro, Cuban politician and revolutionary who served Cuba as a leader from 1959 - 2008, was the prime minister from 1959 - 1976 and the president from 1976 – 2008.<sup>13</sup> He succeeded to establish the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere after leading an overthrow of the military dictatorship ruled by Fulgencio Batista in the year of 1959. The Cuban Revolution lasted from 1953 – 1959 which was an armed revolt conducted and control by Fidel Castro’s 26<sup>th</sup> of July Movement and its allies against the government of Cuban President Fulgencio Batista. The revolution experienced domestic changes such as agrarian reform, democratization of public services and international repercussions like the missile crisis and US embargo in Cuba. Fulgencio Batista rose to power as a part of the “Revolt of the Sergeants” in 1933, that overthrew the authoritarian rule of Gerardo Machado.<sup>14</sup> Batista controlled the government through presidents until the year of 1940, when he himself was elected President of Cuba on a populist platform.

On March 10, 1952, the Cuban coup d’état took place when the Cuban Constitutional Army that was led by Batista, intervened in the election that was scheduled to be held from June 1, staging a coup d’état and establishing a de facto military dictatorship in Cuba. Once back in power, Batista adjourned the 1940 Constitution and repealed political liberties which

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<sup>11</sup> LexisNexis. “What Are Sanctions? - Glossary.” *LexisNexis France*,  
<https://internationalsales.lexisnexis.com/glossary/compliance/sanctions>.

<sup>12</sup> “Socialism.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/socialism>.

<sup>13</sup> “Fidel Castro.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Fidel-Castro>.

<sup>14</sup> “Gerardo Machado y Morales.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gerardo-Machado-y-Morales>.

included the right to strike. Following these actions, he aligned with the wealthiest landowners who owned the largest sugar plantations and presided over a stagnating economy that expanded the gap between the poor and rich. His corrupt regime began to systematically profit from the exploitation of Cuba's commercial interests by prostitution, gambling and drug businesses in Havana with large multinational American corporations that had invested significant amounts of money in Cuba. Wanting to overthrow this corrupt regime, Castro founded a paramilitary organization called "The Movement". In July 1953, they launched a failed attack on the Moncada Barracks, during which many militants were killed, and Castro was arrested.



**Figure 1:** "Fidel Castro addressing a crowd in front of the Presidential Palace in Havana, Cuba, in the year of 1959"<sup>15</sup>

Over the years, as the July 26<sup>th</sup> Movement gradually obtained power, other rebel groups began to join the fight as well. In the cities, rebel groups loosely allied with Castro carried out hit-and-run attacks and nearly succeeded in assassinating Batista. Batista then moved on to sending a large portion of his army into the highlands during the summer of 1958 to try to remove Castro at once, however, this move backfired. The agile rebels carried out guerrilla attacks on the soldiers, many of whom deserted or switched sides.<sup>16</sup> Towards the end of 1958, Castro was prepared to deliver the coup de grâce. Upon the knowing of Castro's victory, Batista along with his inner circle, fled along with the loot they could gather up. Castro claimed his victory on January 9, 1959. During Castro's regime, Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union was part economic, with the Soviet Union providing military, political and

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<sup>15</sup> "Looking Back: Castro and the Cuban Revolution." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 16 Dec. 2016, <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/dec/16/looking-back-castro-cuba-revolution>.

<sup>16</sup> Minster, Christopher. "Essential Facts about the Cuban Revolution." *ThoughtCo*, ThoughtCo, 28 Aug. 2019, <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-cuban-revolution-2136372>.

economic assistance to Cuba.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, his regime became an important Cold War ally for the Soviets.

### **The Bay of Pigs Invasion**

US President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to develop a plan of an invasion in Cuba to overthrow Castro's regime in the year of March 1960. An operation was organized where it trained and funded a force of exiled counter-revolutionary Cubans serving as the armed wing of the Democratic Revolutionary Front<sup>18</sup>, known as Brigade 2506. Following the 1960 elections, President John F. Kennedy came to know of the invasion plan and concluded that Fidel Castro was a Soviet client that posed as a threat to all of Latin America. He went on to give his consent for the CIA-planned a secret invasion of Cuba. The invasion was launched from Guatemala and the components of Brigade 2506 landed at the Bay of Pigs on April 17, 1961, and were defeated within two days by the armed Cuban forces under the direct command of Castro.

In November 1961, John F. Kennedy decided to implement a new covert program in Cuba, with the codename of Operation Mongoose. Operation Mongoose was designed to remove the Communist Castro regime from power in Cuba. Some of the planned Operation Mongoose actions were deployed during 1962, but the military intervention did not occur, and the Castro regime remained in power. The conclusion presented itself as a failure of Operation Mongoose when meanwhile, U.S. intelligence reports indicated expanded arms shipments from the Soviet Union to Cuba. Amidst growing concerns in Washington over whether the Soviet weapons being introduced into Cuba included missiles with nuclear warheads, in October 1962, the Kennedy administration suspended Operation Mongoose in the face of this far more serious threat.<sup>19</sup>

### **The Cuban Missile Crisis**

The Cuban missile crisis was an extremely important confrontation taken place in October 1962, that brought the Soviet Union and the U.S. close to war over the presence of

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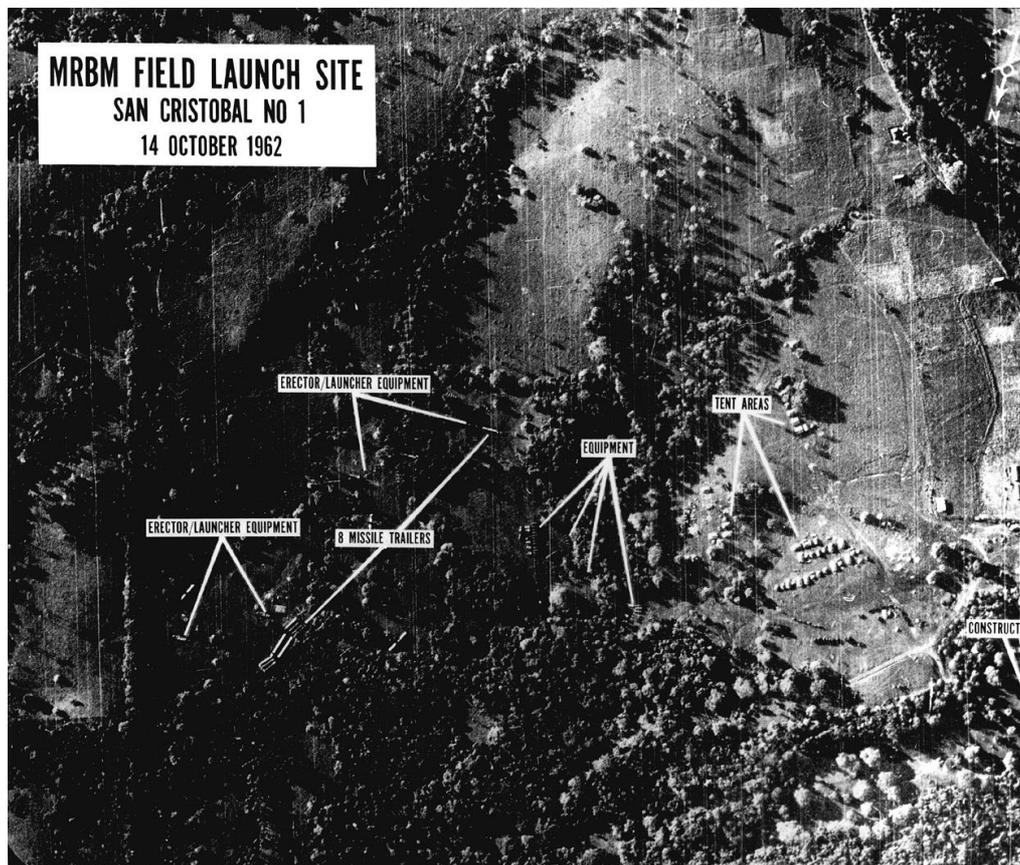
<sup>17</sup> "Cuba–Soviet Union Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 4 Aug. 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Soviet\\_Union\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Soviet_Union_relations).

<sup>18</sup> "Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front." *Wikiwand*, [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cuban\\_Democratic\\_Revolutionary\\_Front](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cuban_Democratic_Revolutionary_Front).

<sup>19</sup> "The Bay of Pigs Invasion and Its Aftermath, April 1961–October 1962." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs>.

Soviet nuclear-armed missiles in Cuba. This missile crisis marked the climax of an acutely antagonistic period in the United States – Soviet Union relations. It played a vital role in Nikita Khrushchev's<sup>20</sup> fall from power and the Soviet Union's determination to achieve nuclear equality with the U.S. Additionally, this crisis also marked the closest point that the world had ever come to a global nuclear war.

Following the crisis, some of the consequences on Cuba were that it stayed communist and highly armed through the Soviet missiles were removed under the UN supervision. Both the U.S. and Cuba considered secured victory – Nikita Khrushchev had saved the communist regime in Cuba from the U.S. invasion, and had additionally negotiated a deal with the USA on the Jupiter missiles removal in Turkey.<sup>21</sup> In the year of 1963, a direct “hot-line” was installed in Washington and Moscow that permitted Soviet and the American leaders to talk directly with each other in any cases of further conflicts.



<sup>20</sup> “Nikita Khrushchev.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nikita-Sergeyevich-Khrushchev>.

<sup>21</sup> Slawson, Larry. “Impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis.” *Owlcation*, Owlcation, 7 May 2019, <https://owlcation.com/humanities/Impact-of-the-Cuban-Missile-Crisis>.

**Figure 2: “Aerial view of missile site in Cuba, in the year of 1962.”<sup>22</sup>**

### **Embargo Imposed on Cuba**

On February 8, 1962, Kennedy issued an Executive order which contained measures that expanded an embargo for Cuba that included all imports of products containing Cuban goods, even if the final products had been made or assembled outside Cuba. In August of the same year, the Foreign Assistance Act was amended to forbid aid to any country that provides assistance to Cuba. In September, Kennedy officially expanded the Cuban embargo to include all Cuban trade, except for the non-subsidized sale of food and medicines. Following the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, Kennedy foisted travel restrictions in February 1963, and the Cuban Assets Control Regulations were issued on July 8, 1963, again under the Trading with the Enemy Act in response to Cubans hosting Soviet nuclear weapons. Under such restrictions, Cuban assets in the U.S. were frozen and existing restrictions were strengthened.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, Cuba, despite being a founding member of the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1947/1948, was booted out of the organization on January 31, 1962, over Fidel Castro’s belief of Marxism-Leninism and his alignment with the Soviet Union.

### **The Resumtition of of Limited Diplomatic Relations**

President Jimmy Carter, in September 1977, reaches an agreement with Fidel Castro to resume limited diplomatic exchange that allows officials from both countries to communicate on a regular basis. The U.S. also opens an interests section with a small staff in its former embassy located in Havana under the patronage of the Swiss embassy. Meanwhile, Cuba opens an interests section in Washington, DC, under the patronage of the embassy of Czechoslovakia. Additionally, in the early 1970s, Cuban isolation in Latin America began to decrease. From the year of 1970, Latin American and British Caribbean countries consistently urged the Nixon administration to reconsider its stance on Cuba.

<sup>22</sup> “The Cuban Missile Crisis (Article).” *Khan Academy*, Khan Academy, <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/1960s-america/a/the-cuban-missile-crisis>.

<sup>23</sup> “United States Embargo against Cuba.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 29 July 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_embargo\\_against\\_Cuba#:~:text=On%20August%203%2C%201962%2C%20the,sale%20of%20food%20and%20medicines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_embargo_against_Cuba#:~:text=On%20August%203%2C%201962%2C%20the,sale%20of%20food%20and%20medicines).

At the 16<sup>th</sup> OAS Meeting of Foreign Ministers in San José, that took place in 1975, the group passed the Freedom of Action Resolution<sup>24</sup>. This resolution allowed member-states to resume its relations with Havana and successfully invalidated previous OAS resolutions on Cuba. The island nation was, therefore, able to resume diplomatic relations with most Latin American countries. This decision was seen to be as a key milestone in the reintegration of Cuba to the region. By the late 1980s, majority of Latin American states had normalized relations with Cuba.



**Figure 3:** “Building the housed the U.S. Interests Sections in Havana, Cuba” (1963)<sup>25</sup>

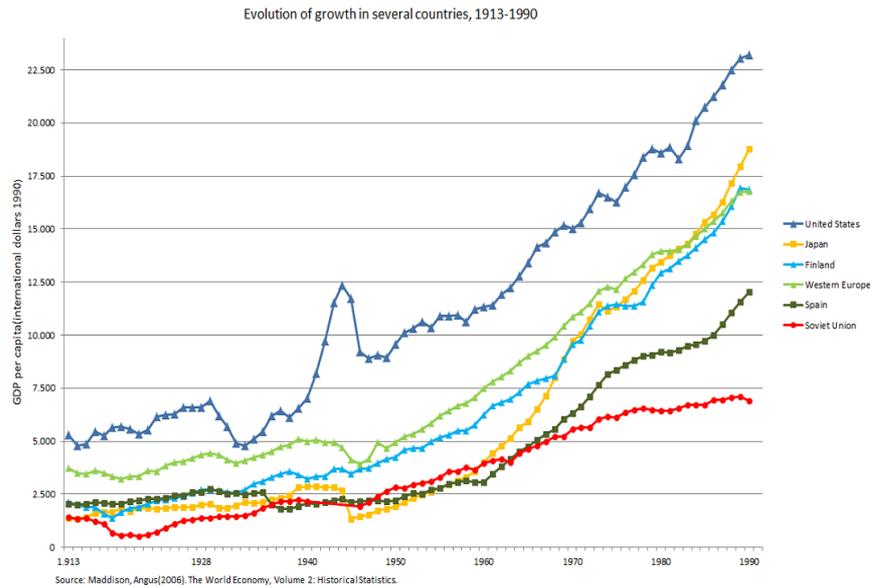
### **The Fall of the Soviet Union**

Soviet Union control all country’s economic resources through a vast state bureaucracy. They flourished an extensive security apparatus backed by prevalent surveillance and forced labor camps. However, in December 1991, the Soviet system came crashing to the ground with its Marxist- Leninist ideology rejected, its socialist economy scrapped in favor of capitalism, and its empire broken into 15 independent countries.

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<sup>24</sup> *Acta 16 - OAS*. <https://www.oas.org/council/MEETINGS%20OF%20CONSULTATION/Actas/Acta%2016.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> “Timeline: U.S.-Cuba Relations.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-cuba-relations>.



**Figure 4:** “GDP per capita of the Soviet Union (in red) compared to other countries”<sup>26</sup>

In the year of 1992, President George H.W. Bush signed the Cuban Democracy Act that increased U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba. This was followed by the Soviet Union collapse the year prior. The law bars vessels that have exchanged goods with Cuba in the previous 180 days from docking at U.S. ports and forbids foreign subordinates of U.S. businesses from trading with Cuba. Furthermore, the legislation also limits the amount of U.S. currency traded with Cuba.<sup>27</sup> Despite that, the act does offer a path to normalizing relations that is conditioned on Castro’s government making significant economic and political reforms.

### Obama eases restrictions to Cuba

In 2009, President Barack Obama eased travel and remittance restrictions to Cuba, in a long-awaited move to thaw relations with the nation.<sup>28</sup> This action changed direction following decades of strict sanctions imposed against Cuba in the past. Under the new rules, Americans were allowed unlimited visits and money transfers to family in Cuba. The policy change was intended to make Cubans less dependent on the Castro regime, and to encourage democracy by giving Cubans more contact with Americans. Before the restriction ease, family visits to Cuba were limited to once every 3 years.

<sup>26</sup> “The Soviet Collapse.” *Origins*, [https://origins.osu.edu/article/soviet-collapse-yeltsin-putin-gorbachev-russia?language\\_content\\_entity=en](https://origins.osu.edu/article/soviet-collapse-yeltsin-putin-gorbachev-russia?language_content_entity=en).

<sup>27</sup> “CUBA SANCTIONS.” *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/faqs/topic/1541>.

<sup>28</sup> “Barack Obama Eases Travel and Remittance Restrictions to Cuba.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 13 Apr. 2009, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/apr/13/barack-obama-cuba-policy-change>.

However, the trade embargo remained in place. Additionally, in the year of 2009, at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the OAS in June, member-states voted to let Cuba back in and at the Summit of the Americas in Panama in the same year, Barack Obama and Raúl Castro sealed the new formal relationship. However, Cuba till this day refuses to re-join OAS, citing Venezuela's mistreatment in a forum.<sup>29</sup> Aside from the political position, another reason for Cuba to not join may be that they must abide by its rules, which includes at least a formulaic commitment to democracy and elections, and accepting the inter-American human rights provisions.

### **Cuba removed from Terrorism List**

The U.S. State Department, in the year of 2015, removed Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. The designation was first imposed in 1982 and prevented Cuba from accessing international finance.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, it was a sticking point in the U.S. and Cuba talks on normalizing diplomatic relations. Cuba was removed from the list when it was found out that Cuba had not sponsored terrorism in recent years and vowed not to do so in the coming future. Moreover, the closed United States and Cuban embassies since 1961, reopened. The U.S. trade embargo, that cannot be lifted without congressional approval, remained in place, however, neither country named an ambassador. In the following year of 2016, Fidel Castro passed away at the age of 90.

### **Trump-era Sanctions eased**

In the year of 2017, then President Donald Trump announced a reinstate of restrictions on Americans while travelling to Cuba and U.S. business dealing with a military-run corporation, however, will not break diplomatic relations. He stated for the U.S. sanctions to no be lifted until Cuba frees all of its political prisoners, respects freedom of assembly and expression, legalizes opposition parties and schedules fair and free elections. As of 2022, the White House lifted some restrictions that included by expanding U.S. flights into the country, reestablishing a family reunification program, increasing visa processing and lifting the payment cap for families. Its aim is to seek to further support of the Cuban people by providing

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<sup>29</sup> "Cuba and the OAS: A Story of Dramatic Fallout and Reconciliation." *Wilson Center*, <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/cuba-and-the-oas-story-dramatic-fallout-and-reconciliation>.

<sup>30</sup> "A Policy Long Past Its Expiration Date: US Economic Sanctions ... - JSTOR." *Jstor*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44282148>.

them additional tools to pursue a life free from Cuban government oppression and to seek greater economic opportunities.<sup>31</sup>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### United States of America (USA)

Knowing the history between Cuba and the U.S. and the imposed an approximate 60 yearlong sanction against Cuba, the U.S. finally proposed a resolution in 2009. With Latin American countries constantly pushing for Cuba's re-entry into the OAS, the U.S. officials a suggestion that included a resolution that reaffirmed a long-standing U.S. position on Cuba along with offering hints of the growing willingness for a dialogue with Havana. By 2009, most Latin American countries had restored diplomatic relations with Cuba. The U.S. resolution instructed the OAS council for an initiation of dialogue with the present government of Cuba regarding its eventual reintegration into the inter-American system consistent with the principles of sovereignty, independence, non-intervention, democracy.<sup>32</sup> Currently, Cuba has refused to be a part of OAS and the commercial, economic and financial embargo from the U.S. against Cuba remains in place.

### Venezuela

The relationship between Venezuela and Cuba has revolved around multiple economic and security agreements that supply a strong support for the bilateral ties. In October 2000, the two countries signed their first economic cooperation agreement that saw Venezuela provide an initial volume of 53,000 barrels of oil a day to Cuba.<sup>33</sup> This volume gradually increased and in exchange, Cuba provided over 30,000 doctors and technical specialists to Venezuela to administer medical treatment and other key services. This agreement overall has established the primary basis for much of the two countries' economic engagement to the current day. The provision of subsidized oil to Cuba pulled it from stagnation of the Special Period and reinvigorated its economy. Overall, the relations between

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<sup>31</sup> "Biden Administration Expands Support to the Cuban People - United States Department of State." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 17 May 2022, <https://www.state.gov/biden-administration-expands-support-to-the-cuban-people/>.

<sup>32</sup> "Cuba." *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/taxonomy/term/987?page=12>.

<sup>33</sup> Chang, Joshua. "Bolivarian Brotherhood: The Roots of the Cuba-Venezuela Relationship and Its Future Trajectory." *Georgetown Security Studies Review*, 18 Oct. 2019, <https://georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org/2019/10/18/bolivarian-brotherhood-the-roots-of-the-cuba-venezuela-relationship-and-its-future-trajectory/>.

Venezuela and Cuba were established in 1902. The relationship however, deteriorated in the 1960s and Venezuela broke relations in late 1961 following the Betancourt Doctrine Policy of not having ties with governments that had come to power by non-electoral means.<sup>34</sup>

## The USSR

Following the Bay of Pigs invasion, Cuba felt threatened by the U.S. Fiedel Castro began to explore a closer relationship with the USSR who was able to offer protection to the nation. The leader of the Soviet, Nikita Khrushchev, concluded by agreeing to Cuba's request to place nuclear missiles to deter future harassment on Cuba. The missiles were place in Cuba for many reasons with one of them being in order to close the missile gap. Khrushchev knew the U.S. had medium and long-range nuclear missiles aimed at the USSR from bases in Turkey. Another reason was to show support to the new communist country and ensure that the United States would not attempt to organize another invasion in order to overthrow Castro.<sup>35</sup> However, since the collapse of the Soviet Union on 26 December, 1991, the USSR does not exist anymore.

## Mexico

Mexico is one of the few countries in the Americas that has maintained diplomatic ties with Cuba throughout the Cuban missile crisis.<sup>36</sup> They had announced so, despite the vote by the Organization of American States to do so. This showed Mexico's dedication to keeping ties with Cuba despite knowing how the United States may react.<sup>37</sup> Moreover, Mexico was the only country that resisted the OAS imposed sanctions against Cuba in 1962. Currently, Cuba is Mexico's third largest trading partner in the Caribbean. As of 2014, trade totaled \$374 million USD.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>34</sup> "Cuba–Venezuela Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Aug. 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Venezuela\\_relations#:~:text=Relations%20between%20Cuba%20and%20Venezuela,power%20by%20non%20electoral%20means.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Venezuela_relations#:~:text=Relations%20between%20Cuba%20and%20Venezuela,power%20by%20non%20electoral%20means.)

<sup>35</sup> "Actions of the USSR - the Cuban Missile Crisis - CCEA - GCSE History Revision - CCEA - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zwk7rwx/revision/4>.

<sup>36</sup> "Cuba–Mexico Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 July 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Mexico\\_relations#:~:text=Mexico%20was%20the%20one%20of,the%20United%20States%20could%20react.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba%E2%80%93Mexico_relations#:~:text=Mexico%20was%20the%20one%20of,the%20United%20States%20could%20react.)

<sup>37</sup> "Mexico Rejects O.A.S. Call to Break Relations with Cuba." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 Aug. 1964, <https://www.nytimes.com/1964/08/04/archives/mexico-rejects-oas-call-to-break-relations-with-cuba.html#:~:text=3%E2%80%94The%20Mexican%20Government%20announced,and%20shipping%20sanctions%20against%20Cuba.>

<sup>38</sup> *10 Facts about Mexico – Cuba Relations - Gob.mx*. <https://www.gob.mx/en/articulos/10-facts-about-mexico-cuba-relations?tab=>.

## Chile

In 1964, the Chile government broke diplomatic relations with Cuba in response to the call made by the OAS for political and economic sanctions against Havana. The vote for the OAS calling all member states not to maintain diplomatic or consular relations with Cuba was 15-4, with Bolivia, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay casting the negative votes<sup>39</sup>. Obedience with the inter-American organization's action is considered to be obligatory under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. However, as of March 10, 2022, Cuba and Chile confirmed their willingness to deepen bilateral relations with one another.

## Center for Democracy in the Americas

The Center of Democracy in the Americas, also known as CDA is a not-for-profit institution that aims to promote a U.S. policy toward Cuba based on recognition and engagement of Cuba's sovereignty and relations with Latin America based on mutual respect. Initiated by CDA, Cuba program is a program where through bipartisan outreach, strategic advocacy, research publications such as the weekly "Cuba Central News Brief", and by arranging people-to-people delegations between important U.S. and Cuban officials, CDA works to build understanding among key stakeholders and the general public that the normalization of relations among both nations is in the interest of the U.S., Cuba and Latin America.<sup>40</sup>

## Latin America Working Group

The Latin America Working Group has began an "End the Embargo on Cuba" campaign in order to change this policy written into law.<sup>41</sup> Over the years, the organization has taken many steps towards providing assistance for Cuba such as sponsoring a booth at an American

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<sup>39</sup> "Chile Breaks Cuban Ties, Carrying out O.A.S. Ban; President Alessandri Severs Diplomatic Relations in the Face of Threats by Leftists of Street Violence." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 12 Aug. 1964, <https://www.nytimes.com/1964/08/12/archives/chile-breaks-cuban-ties-carrying-out-oas-ban-president-alessandri.html>.

<sup>40</sup> "Center for Democracy in the Americas." *CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAS - GuideStar Profile*, <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/94-2978680#:~:text=The%20Center%20for%20Democracy%20in,America%20based%20on%20mutual%20respect>.

<sup>41</sup> Wpengine. "End the Embargo on Cuba." *Latin America Working Group*, 22 Oct. 2008, <https://www.lawg.org/end-the-embargo-on-cuba/>.

Farm Bureau Federation conference in Tampa, taken testimony from Cuban-American families who bore the brunt of a cruel policy dividing families, strategized with leaders of both parties on how to bring about policy change, etc.<sup>42</sup> The campaign can be seen over social medias with the youth being encouraged to be actively involved as well.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1959	Upon the end of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro establishes a revolutionary socialist state in Cuba after revolting against Fulgencio Batista
1960	Castro nationalizes all foreign assets in Cuba and establishes trade deals with the Soviet Union
April 17, 1961	Bay of Pigs Invasion proposed by John F. Kennedy takes place. The mission fails
February 7, 1962	The Kennedy administration announces an embargo on Cuba prohibiting all trade. John F. Kennedy moreover, proposes for Cuba to get booted out of the Organization of the American States, despite being one of the founding members. The Cuban Missile Crisis takes place from October 14-28.
1966	U.S. opens asylum door, borders open to all Cubans and signs into law an immigration bill that provides preference to Cuban migrants with family ties to the U.S. citizens or residents
September 1977	President Jimmy Carter reaches an agreement with Castro to resume a limited diplomatic exchange that allows officials from both countries to communicate on a regular basis.

<sup>42</sup> Wpengine. "End the Travel Ban on Cuba." *Latin America Working Group*, 2 Nov. 2018, <https://www.lawg.org/end-the-travel-ban-on-cuba/>.

April-October 1980	Cuba faces pressure from many Cubans hoping to flee the country due to its economy suffering from a spike in oil prices and the continued U.S. embargo
March 1982	U.S. President Ronald Reagan designates Cuba as a state of sponsor of terrorism, condemning the Castro government for providing support to militant communist groups in African and Latin American countries
May 20, 1985	Fidel Castro suspends an immigration agreement that would have allowed up to 20,000 Cubans per year to immigrate to the U.S. and provided repatriation of approximately 3,000 Cubans with criminal records or who suffer from mental illnesses. Additionally, Cuba halts visits by Cubans living in the U.S.
October 23, 1992	U.S. tightens sanctions after Soviet collapse
1996	Washington and Havana implement 2 accords aimed to address the thousands of Cubans attempting to enter the U.S. annually. These Bilateral accords ease refugee flow. Additionally, on March 12, Clinton signed the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, that tightened and codified the U.S. embargo
September 12, 1998	The Clinton administration charged 5 Cuban counterintelligence officers in the U.S. with conspiracy of committing espionage along with other illegal activities. The five were found guilty in 2001
November 21, 1999	The case of 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez, who was the sole survivor of an attempt by his mother and 10 others to reach the U.S. by boat, ignited a media storm. His case was denied by the Supreme Court, and he was sent back to his father in Cuba.
October 30, 2000	Hugo Chavez, the Venezuelan President signed an agreement with Fidel Castro allowing Venezuela to send oil to Cuba at a heavy discount in return for Cuban support in science, health care, education and technology
February 24, 2008	Due to health decline, Fidel Castro announces of handing over his presidency to his brother, Raul Castro, who had served as second-in-command of the government and a general in the armed forces

<p>2009</p>	<p>President Obama eased travel restrictions and payment that had been tightened by his predecessor. Such a move allowed Cuban Americans to send unlimited funds to Cuba and permitted U.S. citizens to travel there for religious and educational purposes. Additionally, on December 3, Alan Gross, who was a subcontractor working on a democracy-promotion program for the United States agency for International Development, was arrested in Cuba. He was bringing technology to help Cuba's Jewish community gain access to the internet, which was strictly prohibited in Cuba. Moreover, with the help of Latin America constantly urging the OAS, Cuba is voted to be let back into the organization</p>
<p>January 28-29, 2014</p>	<p>The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was hosted by Cuba for the first time where regional leaders discussed peace, trade and human rights. CELAC is considered to be an alternative to the United States dominated OAS, from which Cuba was booted out in 1962. Additionally, on December 17, Raul Castro and Barack Obama announced that they will restore full diplomatic ties that followed the exchange of the Cuban Five prisoners along with Adam Gross</p>
<p>May 29, 2015</p>	<p>The State Department of the United States removed Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. This designation was imposed first in 1982, that had prevented Cuba from accessing international finance</p>
<p>2016</p>	<p>On July 20, The Cuban and U.S. embassies reopened since they were closed in 1961. The U.S. trade embargo remained in place since it could not be lifted without congressional approval. Following that, on November 25, Fidel Castro passed away at the age of ninety. Thousands of Cubans gathered to mark the first day of an official week of mourning</p>
<p>June 16, 2017</p>	<p>President Donald Trump announced the reinstatement of restrictions on Americans travelling to Cuba and U.S. business dealing with a military run corporation, however, will not break diplomatic relations</p>

April 19, 2018	The National Assembly, without any opposition, elected Miguel Diaz-Canel, 1 <sup>st</sup> vice president and Castro’s hand-picked successor, as the Cuban president. Castro makes sure that he will remain the head of the Communist Party until 2021
2021	The State Department of the United States returns Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terrorism.
2022	Thousands of Cubans protested and was known as the country’s largest demonstrations in nearly 3 decades. This protest had taken place for the worsening economic conditions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Their complaints were over power outages, food shortages, spiking inflation and shortage of medicines.

## UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

### “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” document (A/75/L.97)<sup>43</sup>

The UN General Assembly called upon U.S. to end Cuba embargo for the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2021. In this meeting, Columbia, Brazil and Ukraine abstained. The international community provided an overwhelming response to back the resolution that has been approved since 1992, when the General Assembly began to vote annually on this issue. While the vote in the assembly holds political weight in terms of international diplomacy, only the U.S. Congress has the power of lifting the economic, financial and commercial embargo. The General Assembly, moreover, adopted a resolution that addresses the decades-long U.S. embargo against Cuba.

The draft resolution named as, “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba” (document A/75/L.97), recorded 184 votes in favor with 2 against (Israel, United States) and 3 abstentions. With the above votes, the Assembly repeated its call upon all member states to abstain from promulgating and applying such measures and laws as the United States Helms-Burton Act, in

<sup>43</sup> “Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America against Cuba :” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3928861?ln=en>.

compliance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.<sup>44</sup>

### **End to the U.S. Embargo against Cuba called by the City Council**

In the month of May, 2022, the City Council meeting adopted a resolution that called for an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba and opening up of new travel and collaborative cultural, medical and academic opportunities between the two nations. The resolution states, “fully restoration of travel and trade between both countries would be of great benefit to both, particularly in the areas of economic opportunities, education, health care, tourism, the arts, music, and sports, along with medical and biotechnological research, especially in relationship to COVID-19.”<sup>45</sup> The Massachusetts State Legislation along with the Council strongly urge the Massachusetts Representatives and Senators in the U.S. Congress to publicize and pass legislation marking an end to the commercial, financial and economic embargo along with the travel restrictions on the American citizens as well as the Cuban residents, and Cuban citizens to the United States.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **The United States Helms-Burton Act**

The Helm-Burton Act, also known as the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, was adapted on March 12, 1996. This law extended sanctions to all non-U.S. companies that performed any business with Cuba, and permitted American citizens to sue foreign companies for dealing in confiscated U.S. property in Cuba. The purpose of this was to further isolate Cuba, to strengthen the trade embargo against it, and to additionally extend the American legislation to punish foreign companies investing simultaneously in the United States and

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<sup>44</sup> “Adopting Annual Resolution, Delegates in General Assembly Urge Immediate Repeal of Embargo on Cuba, Especially amid Global Efforts to Combat COVID-19 Pandemic | UN Press.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/ga12341.doc.htm>.

<sup>45</sup> “City Council Calls for an End to U.S. Embargo against Cuba.” *Boston.gov*, 16 May 2022, <https://www.boston.gov/news/city-council-calls-end-us-embargo-against-cuba>.

Cuba.<sup>46</sup> The UN General Assembly strongly urges other nations to refrain from adopting such acts against the nation since it is extremely unbeneficial to Cuba.

### **Compensation claims for seized property**

In the month of December, 2015, the Cuban government held talks with the U.S. on the issue of property claims where the Obama administration accomplished a significant breakthrough. Cuba had recognized, for the first time, the compensation claims as discussion worthy and came forward with the demand of suggest the U.S. to compensate Cuba for the extensive economic costs of the imposed embargo imposed on the island-nation. Compensation claims for seized properties are considered normal in international relations. However, to the current day, the compensation has not been made by the United States

## **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

### **Lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba**

Naturally, the 60 yearlong sanctions against Cuba has caused great tensions between the two nations from tensions to almost going to war with the Cuban missile crisis. Cuba has currently refused to reintegrate with the inner-American system due to one of the reasons being their mistreatment over the past decades. In order for Cuba to consider the reintegration, the lift of the embargo is a vital step towards normalizing relations between the U.S. and Cuba. Moreover, the embargo lift is essential to establish healthy trade routes that can be extremely beneficial to both countries.

The first important step may be performing more frequent negotiations and meetings by the OAS in order to discuss and reach conclusions upon this issue from both sides to arrive to a potential solution. These meetings can attempt to persuade the United States to adopt the A/75/L.97 resolution proposed by the UN that urges the embargo lift. Upon the lifting of the embargo, specific written agreements should be signed by the authorities of both nations that establish a firm relationship between the two countries and provide with information such as the benefits both nations will receive from each other.

### **Establishing Agreements ensuring of no U.S. interference**

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<sup>46</sup> Cengage. "Helms-Burton Act." *Encyclopedia.com*, Encyclopedia.com, 22 Aug. 2022, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/helms-burton-act>.

The embargo proposed by the United States has greatly isolated the island nation due to the red scare propaganda ( the perceived threat proposed by Communists in the United States during the Cold War) which expresses negative views from the United States for the nations that continue to form bilateral relations with Cuba. This is one of the reasons of Cuba not having many allies apart from Mexico and a few other nations. Many countries have imposed sanctions against Cuba in order to not “get on the bad side” of the United States.

The United States authorities must be urged to sign written agreements that ensure no interference from the U.S. if another nation intends to perform any kind of business with Cuba. The document must make sure that if another country would like to conduct business simultaneously with the U.S. and Cuba, no parties must interfere in that decision and business shall not be affected in a negative manner with solely on that basis.

### **Benefits to the Cuban nation**

Since Cuba has gone through its own economic issues in the past and has a large scope for development in the current day, the OAS nations offering benefits to the Cuban nation such as funds for better education system, security etc. is an effective step along with persuading Cuba to be re-integrated into the inter-American system.

In order to initiate certain benefits to Cuba, the OAS can begin by making sure that representatives from Cuba are also a part of the OAS meetings along similar to all other nations that are present at the meetings. Making sure a Cuban representative is present at the meetings provides a voice of opinion from the island nation as well which establishes a strong progress since Cuba was kicked out of the organization itself.

Another benefit provided can be that Cuba is allowed to be part of the OAS despite being a communist country. Since one of the rules that Cuba would have to follow by in order to join the OAS would be changing to a democratic nation, one of the reasons as to why Cuba refuses to join the OAS, it should be ensured that Cuba is still allowed to be a part of the organization despite being a communist country.

### **Providing fundings to Cuba for economical benefits**

Due to the isolation of Cuba from other nations over the years, the nation has suffered from economical crisis in the past. It should be strongly urged for humanitarian organizations such as the Carribbean Educational and Baseball Foundation (CEBF), Engage Cuba, National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), etc. to provide fundings and humanitarian assistance to Cuba in order for the nation to grow financially, economically and educationally.

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, the quality of medical assistance has been extremely essential in the entire world. Since Cuba is still a developing nation, providing medical assistance through more doctors, medical equipment, funds to purchase good quality of medical equipment should be provided by such organizations in order for the nation to develop itself.

Moreover, funds for a better economy and education system should also be ensured and regulated by authorities of relevant organizations from time to time to affirm stable growth for the island nations.

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