

Cuba and U.S. Commit to Cooperate on National Security Issues



Havana, January 17 (RHC)-- The governments of Cuba and the United States have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, providing for law enforcement cooperation in areas related to both countries' national security.

The arrangement establishes a framework for strengthening U.S.-Cuba law enforcement relationship on such issues as drug-trafficking, counter-terrorism, money laundering, cyber security and legal cooperation.

The parties also agreed to increase coordination to prevent and confront human trafficking, flora and fauna trafficking and arms trafficking.

The Memorandum was signed in Havana by Cuban Interior Minister, Vice-Admiral Julio César Gandarilla, and Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in the Cuban capital.

Monday's signing ceremony was attended by U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes and representatives of the Cuban Parliament's Defense and National Security Commissions.

Rhodes' Cuba trip follows last week's announcement that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has ended the so-called "wet-foot/dry foot" policy as well as the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program, which encouraged unregulated flows of Cuban immigrants to the United States.

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