

# *U.S. Bishops Call for Expanded Engagement with Cuba in Face of Trump's Policy Change*

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Washington, June 20 (RHC)-- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has come out in opposition of recent measures by Donald Trump seeking to tighten the U.S. economic circle against Cuba and has called instead for expanded, not restricted engagement.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops objected that Trump's announced measures would affect U.S. citizens' travel to Cuba and would hinder U.S. commerce with entities controlled by the Cuban government.

"For decades, we have called for the U.S. travel ban and embargo against Cuba to be lifted," said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, chair of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, in a statement issued June 19th.

Bishop Cantu, speaking in his role with the U.S. bishops, urged that President Trump consider the ramifications that his order's implementing regulations will have for "many ordinary Cubans who have taken advantage of new opportunities to support their families."

Bishop Cantu suggested also that Trump look to Pope Francis. The Pope helped the two nations come together in dialogue, he said, adding: "It is important to continue to promote dialogue and encounter between our neighboring nations and peoples."

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