

# *Russian Foreign Ministry strongly criticizes Washington's blackmail of Cuba*

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Moscow, May 6 (RHC)-- Russia's Foreign Ministry urged the international community to unite in condemning Washington's new anti-Cuban blockade measures, which came about after President Donald Trump lifted the waiver on Title III of the once-dormant Helms-Burton Law.

"We emphasize again that the methods of blackmail and pressure used by Washington are absolutely illegal. We call on all responsible forces to defend the U.N. Charter and international law in order to jointly put an end to the anti-Cuba blockade," the Russian ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also pointed out that Washington is threatening more sanctions on Cuba in the vein of the "Monroe Doctrine" in an "overt encroachment" on the sovereignty of the Latin American nation.

The new sanctions were made known when United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the Title III would come into effect on May 2nd, permitting U.S. nationals to sue Cuban entities or foreign entities operating on the island prior to the Cuban Revolution for damages.

Moscow said the measures are excessive since Cuba has repeatedly expressed readiness to resolve existing contradictions with the United States regarding bilateral issues.

The Helms-Burton Law is a bill signed into law by former U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1996. However, this is the first time that any U.S. administration has authorized its implementation.

"Through the devaluation of democratic principles and rejection of international legal norms, the U.S. neglects the values it promotes, creating obstacles for all countries leading a separate policy and refusing to follow Washington's directions," the Foreign Ministry noted.

Canada, the European Union as well as other countries have rejected the activation of the Helms-Burton Act, explaining that it violates the norms of international law.

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