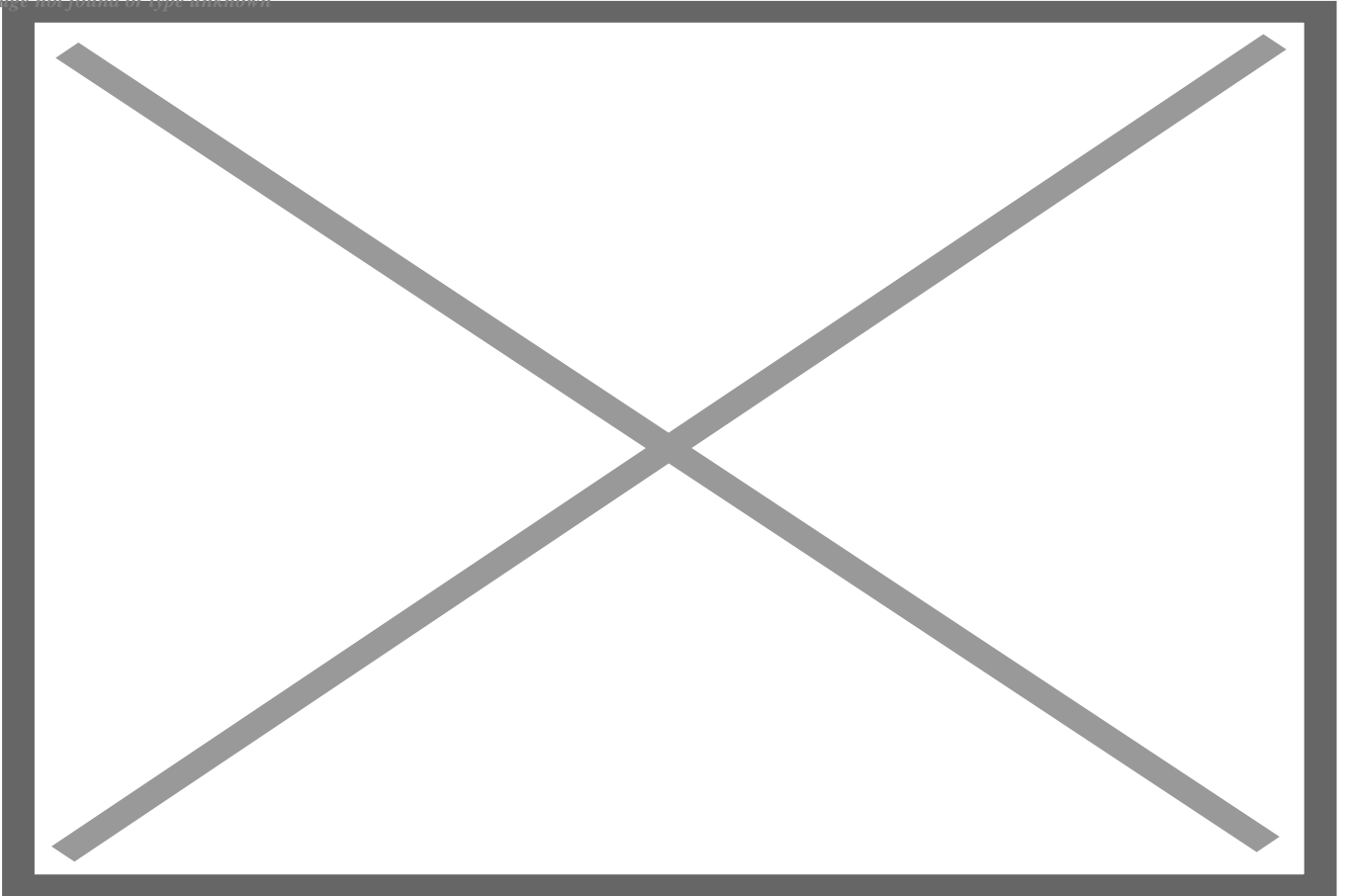


# *Cuba reaffirms its status as a country that promotes peace*

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Havana, December 22 (RHC)-- Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel reiterated today that Cuba is a country that promotes peace with ties of friendship and respect throughout the planet.

Speaking at the eighth session of the National Assembly of People's Power (Parliament) in its ninth legislature, he affirmed that the Caribbean nation will continue working in defense of multilateralism and strengthening collaborative ties in the world.

"The significant presence of students from several countries in Cuba and thousands of Cuban health, construction, and teaching professionals in dozens of countries brings us closer to other peoples in a

special way," the President said.

Data published by the Cuban Ministry of Public Health show that up to March this year, 57 contingents of Henry Reeve medical brigades collaborated in 40 countries to fight against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the cause of Covid-19.

The President said that, contrary to the wishes of many in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic did not lead the planet towards a more united world.

"The threats to peace and nature continue to be more present than ever, marked by selfishness and increasing inequality as increasingly visible and powerful characteristics," he stressed.

In this scenario, he pointed out, our foreign policy of friendship with other peoples, defense of just causes, and support and promotion of Latin America as a zone of peace must be developed.

He acknowledged the electoral processes in Peru, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Honduras, Chile, and Caribbean nations. We observe "with hope" the efforts to recover the social advances in those countries that neoliberalism thwarted.

He ratified that the U.S. government has determined to turn aggression against Cuba into its official policy and unsuccessfully in its suffocation amid the pandemic tries to discredit the Revolution.

"Despite that, we do not renounce to develop a constructive relationship with that government and facilitate the ties of friendship with its people," he said.

He stressed that in this situation, Cuba recognizes the thousands of expressions of support received worldwide, such as the campaign promoted by Cubans living abroad, especially those living in the United States.

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