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## By Roberto Morejón

Cuba and Iran are independent, sovereign nations, they reject U.S. impositions and seek to strengthen their economic ties, excellent in the political sphere.

This was reaffirmed during the working visit to Cuba of Iranian Foreign Minister Hosein Amir Abdolahian, which took place after 43 years of uninterrupted ties, since the largest of the Antilles was one of the countries that quickly recognized the Islamic Revolution.

While cordially receiving him at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel stressed that the stay of the illustrious visitor has been an excellent moment to expand ties.

As Cuba's president pointed out, both countries share "the fact of being the most sanctioned in the world", in view of which Tehran rejects Washington's blockade of the Caribbean nation and the latter is in solidarity with the friendly nation in the face of destabilization and interference attempts.

In the heat of these realities, the bilateral ties, whose culminating point in the economic field was last May, when the two parties signed 13 agreements in the fields of energy, agriculture, banking and industry.

On that occasion, they noted the high level of political dialogue and agreed on the need to make accelerated progress in the development and deepening of economic and trade ties.

In the light of the understanding, Havana and Tehran are working hard to overcome the obstacles posed by the U.S. sanctions, especially as regards the circulation of their finances at the international level.

Even in spite of the non-existence of a direct air route, Cuba adapts conditions to attend Iranian tourists according to their characteristics, culture and religion.

Cubans do not forget the Iranian government's gesture when it immediately sent experts from the Ministry of Petroleum to assess the damage caused by a fire at the main supertanker base in the western province of Matanzas in 2022.

With such a background, it is coherent the expression of the Antillean Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodriguez, to qualify bilateral relations as very important and to ratify Cuba's position in defense of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The head of Iranian diplomacy expressed himself in that vein in an interview with the Telesur channel, stressing that on the basis of religious beliefs and principles, the Islamic Republic does not seek to manufacture nuclear bombs and uses the technology for the benefit of the people.

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