

# *Cuba grants Friendship Medal to Russian ambassador*

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Havana, March 20 (RHC) The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez, presented this Monday the Friendship Medal to the Russian ambassador, Andrei Gushkov, for his outstanding management in the development of political and economic relations between the two nations.

Gushkov, who will soon finish his work in the archipelago, contributed with great professionalism and dedication to strengthening bilateral ties in the broadest fields, as expressed by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anayansi Rodríguez, at the ceremony held at the headquarters of the Chancellery. She pointed out that during the Gushkov's almost five-year stay in Cuba, he contributed to strengthening those ties on the basis of friendship, affection, mutual respect and solidarity support.

In expressing gratitude for the award, the Russian representative denounced the blockade of Washington as an irrational policy imposed on all those countries that are "uncomfortable" to them, and criticized the sanctions that the United States and Europe have imposed on Russia in retaliation for the military operation in Ukraine.

He also reiterated his admiration for the Cuban people and their determination to overcome all difficulties, and pointed out that the island will count on the effective solidarity of his country.

Also present at the ceremony were Ricardo Cabrisas, Vice Prime Minister; Yolanda Ferrer, President of the International Relations Commission of the National Assembly of People's Power; Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples; other representatives of organizations and institutions of the island and members of the diplomatic corps. (Source/PL)

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