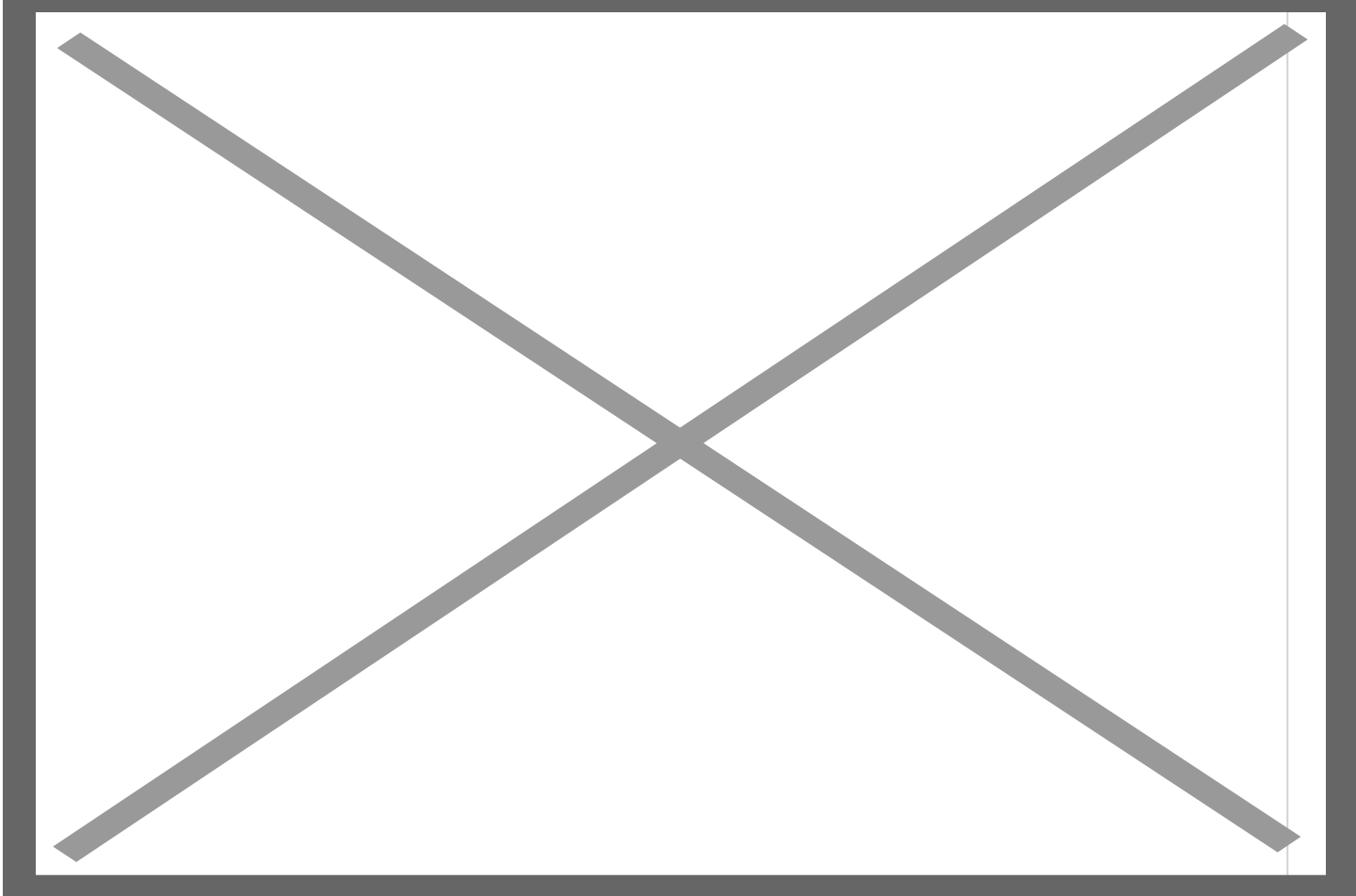


Young people from Cuba and Vietnam strengthen ties in Havana

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Havana, Jun 30 (RHC) Youth organizations from Cuba and Vietnam today strengthened ties with the signing of a memorandum of understanding, in the context of the First Forum between the communist youth of Cuba and Ho Chi Minh City.

The meeting, held since last Monday at the University of Havana, greeted the 50th anniversary of Fidel Castro Ruz's first visit to Vietnam, the only head of state to arrive in the Asian country in times of war.

Phan Thi Thang Phuong, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists of Ho Chi Minh City, thanked for the affectionate welcome in Havana and highlighted the historic and significant friendship ties between the two countries and their leaders.

The Vietnamese youth leader expressed interest in helping those affected by the heavy rains that recently affected central and eastern Cuba, and the desire to expand cooperation and the youth movement between the territories.

For his part, Raúl Alejandro Palmero, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists of Havana, recalled that Cuba became in 1960 the first country in Latin America to establish relations with Vietnam.

He affirmed that the Cuban youth grew up admiring the Vietnamese people, for their spirit of resistance and entrepreneurship, and he thanked the visitors for their solidarity in the face of the floods and the invariable position of his country against the United States blockade against Cuba.

Cuba is currently training 63 students from Vietnam in its university classrooms, 56 of them in Havana and seven in other provinces, in careers such as Journalism, Tourism, Medicine, Spanish and Law. (Source: PL)

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