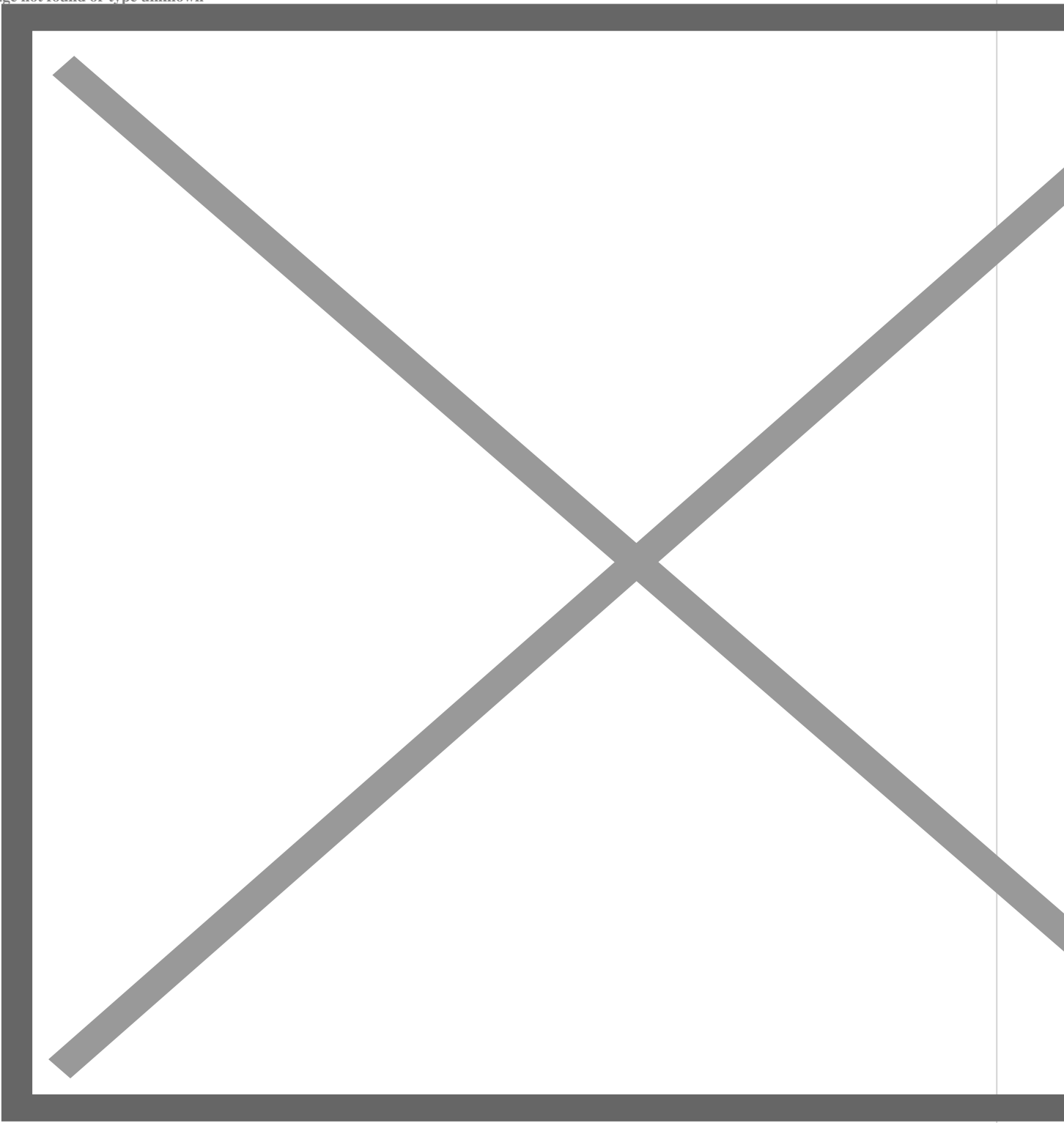


*Prominent Cuban diplomat and  
combatant Rodolfo Puente Ferro  
passes away*

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**Puente Ferro was the honorary president of the Cuba-Africa Friendship  
Cuba-Africa Friendship Association.**

**Photo taken from Cubadebate**

Havana, July 24 (RHC)-- Comrade Rodolfo Puente Ferro, a doctor by profession, member of Ernesto Che Guevara's guerrilla movement in the Congo, ambassador to Angola, and leader of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), passed away on Sunday morning.

From a very young age in his native Santiago de Cuba, Puente Ferro joined the 26th of July Movement.

After the triumph of 1959 he was in charge of different responsibilities in the health sector: director of the Institute of Hematology and the Finlay Hospital.

He occupied different responsibilities entrusted by the PCC with a sense of ethics, commitment and loyalty without limits to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raul Castro.

In Cuba-Africa relations he played a very prominent role. He participated in the peace negotiations in Angola, which led to the independence of Namibia and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

For more than 20 years he was responsible for relations with political parties and organizations in Africa and the Middle East.

At the time of his death he was the honorary president of the Cuba-Africa Friendship Association.

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