

# *Russian Vice President Extols Scope of Agreements with Cuba*

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Moscow, October 23 (RHC-PL) -- Russian Vice President Dmitry Rogozin yesterday praised the set of agreements signed with Cuba that he says resemble those sealed by big countries with mutual confidence.

If we look at the set of agreements reached, in their essence they resemble the relations between two big countries, said Rogozin in remarks to Prensa Latina at the end of the signing ceremony yesterday, which he said was a result of "that boost our leaders gave to bilateral cooperation."

Rogozin agreed that the agreement reached on the line of credit, despite Cuba's difficulties in accessing the financial market because of the sanctions, has facilitated the largest injection into the Cuban economy in the past 20 years.

As a whole, the two state export credits of the Russian Government to Cuba amount to 1.20 billion euros.

We are certain that the country is working with all guarantees and the Cubans are people who can handle issues and big projects, said Rogozin in view of concern expressed on Russian and Western press reports about the paying back of the loans.

He highlighted as a new feature the transition of the Russian-Cuban cooperation from traditional fields to other promising ones in the field of high technology, like cosmos, aviation, the creation of an air transport hub, the renewal of Cuban energy, the modernization of the steel sector, the collaboration in oil and gas and a joint production oriented to markets in other countries.

The Russian official, who is in charge of the military-industrial complex and space, said that the fleet of planes existing in Cuba demonstrates that the Island has no difficulty to export its products, and referred to the prospects of a helicopter service center for the entire Caribbean region.

In his opinion, there are excellent opportunities in the field of medicine, pharmaceuticals and some room for Cuban experts in the programs of the International Space Station and in the projects of Russian cosmonauts.

He extolled the remarkable Cuban medicine breakthroughs, also including the bio-pharmaceutical area which was acknowledged in the cooperation agreement signed between the firms HEBER BIOTEC (Cuba) and PHARMECO (Russia).

Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban Vice President and co-chair of the Intergovernmental Commission, said the signing of the package of agreements "is an expression of what two brother countries in solidarity can do to benefit their peoples."

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