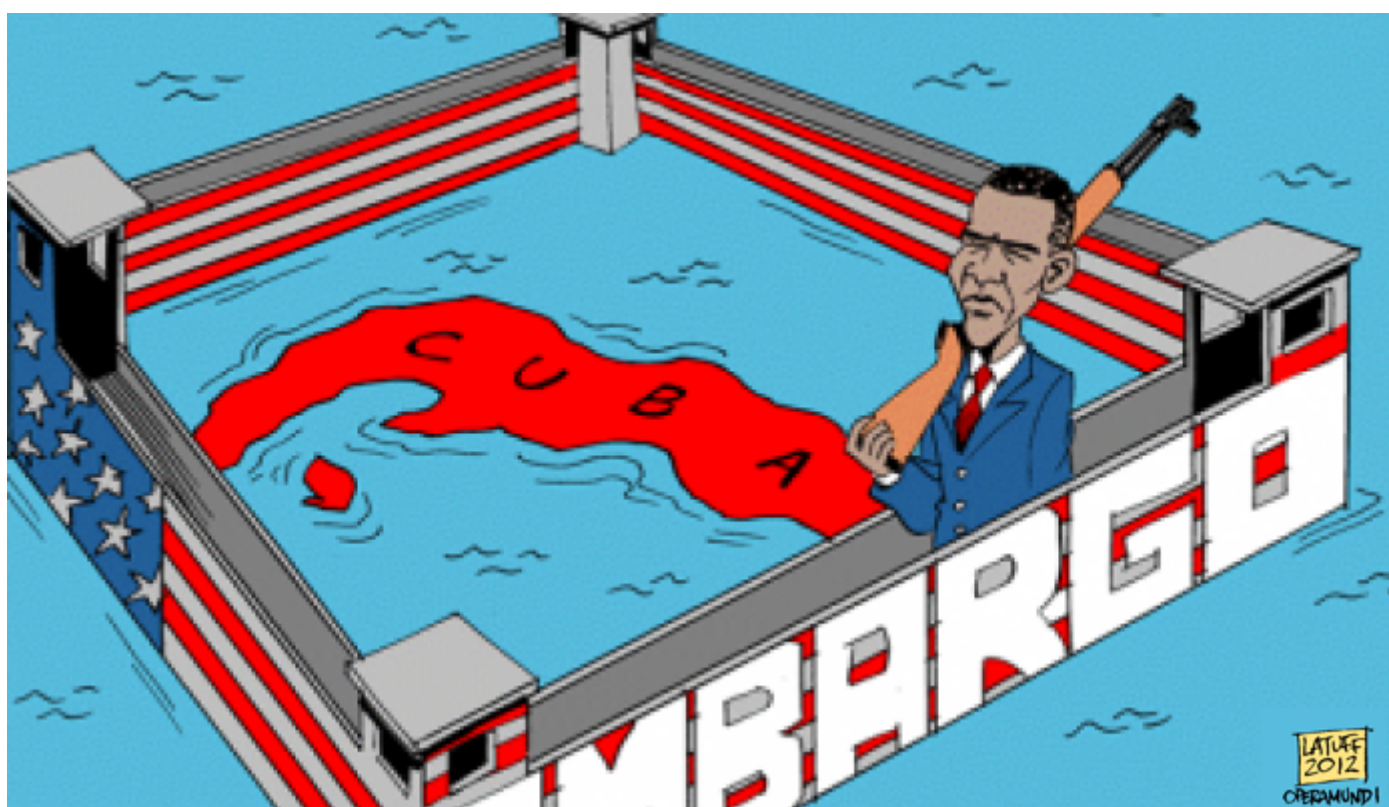


New U.S. Initiatives Towards Cuba Positive But Still Not Enough



Havana, January 27 (RHC)-- The new regulations announced by the United States, allowing the granting of credits and easing travel restrictions by U.S. citizens to Cuba are positive but do not yet pose a significant change on the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of the island.

The regulation were published Tuesday by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, under the Treasury, and by the Department of Commerce.

Observers say that the U.S. initiatives are positive but not enough and prove that President Obama has the power to eliminate critical components of Washington's over-fifty-year hostile Cuba policy, although only the U.S. Congress can fully lift the blockade.

The regulations expand the possibilities to travel to Cuba by persons who operate or offer shipping or aeronautical services, which is in tune with the recent and preliminary accords between the two countries to resume commercial flights.

However, the measures are evidence that the main U.S. goal of using new methods to encourage a change in Cuba's social and political system, which they were not able to achieve along the past 50 years of hostile and failed policy.

Cuban authorities have reiterated that the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by Washington against the island is the main obstacle to achieve normal bilateral relations.

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