

# *Cuba-U.S. Hold First Bilateral Commission Meeting Since Reversal of Relations Announced by Trump*

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Washington, September 20 (RHC)-- The Cuba-U.S. Bilateral Commission held its sixth meeting on Tuesday in Washington D.C. Josefina Vidal Ferreiro, General Director of the U.S. Affairs Division of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Cuban delegation; and John Creamer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs in the U.S. Department of State, headed the U.S. delegation.

The meeting was held against the backdrop of a reversal of bilateral relations following the new Cuba policy announced by the U.S. government last June 16th. The Cuban delegation placed on record its rejection of measures designed to intensify the U.S. blockade and to interfere in Cuban internal affairs, the use of confrontational rhetoric and the political manipulation of the human rights issue as a pretext to justify U.S. policies. Also rejected was the notion of tying any improvement in bilateral relations to the

introduction of changes in the Cuban constitutional order. The Cuban delegation also discussed the implications of the new Cuba policy for bilateral links, including its adverse impact on several U.S.-based sectors.

In reaffirming the Cuban government's will to maintain a respectful dialogue with its U.S. counterpart, the Cuban delegation expressed readiness to actively implement the bilateral accords that have been formalized over the past two years. In this context, the Cuban delegation delivered specific proposals in the name of Cuban organizations to advance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual benefit, including but not limited to environmental protection, law enforcement, health, agriculture, hydrography and geodesy.

Concerning the alleged incidents that have affected several U.S. embassy officials and their family members in Havana, it was stressed that Cuba strictly observes its obligations to protect foreign diplomats in its soil. It was also noted that Cuba has never perpetrated or will ever perpetrate actions of this nature, and has never permitted or will ever permit any third-party use of its territory for this purpose. It was emphasized that the Cuban authorities have shown keen interest in both clarifying this matter, and on instructions from the highest level of its government, completing the investigations in progress, for which purpose, cooperation from the U.S. authorities is essential.

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