

Venezuela Proposes Dialogue with U.S.



Caracas, March 17 (RHC-AVN) -- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has proposed the establishment of a commission for "peace and mutual respect of sovereignty" between the United States and the South American country to begin a dialogue to re-establish diplomatic ties.

Maduro headed a rally where thousands of supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution expressed their support for the Armed Forces and the National Guard after more than a month of violent actions unleashed by right-wing factions in certain areas of the country.

The president said he would seek to appoint National Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello to lead talks with the U.S. and asked for the mediation of representatives of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

Over the last few weeks, Maduro has consistently insisted on a dialogue based on mutual respect to end years of tension between the two countries.

Last Friday, Washington dismissed Maduro's accusations that it was meddling in the country's internal affairs by intervening in anti-government violent actions.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua had earlier called top U.S. State Secretary John Kerry a "murderer of the Venezuelan people," accusing him of encouraging actions in the streets that have killed 28 people in five weeks.

Maduro denounced what he called the U.S. government's threat to kill him as an extreme measure to generate a political crisis in the South American nation.

Maduro said he has received information that Obama's advisers from the State Department and the Pentagon have proposed an assassination plan and a coup in Venezuela.

"If the U.S. were to execute that plan and kill me, the people will continue in the streets with the Revolution along with our united armed forces," added Maduro.

The Venezuelan president said that Latin America and the Caribbean will reject any economic sanctions that the U.S. intends to impose against his nation.

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