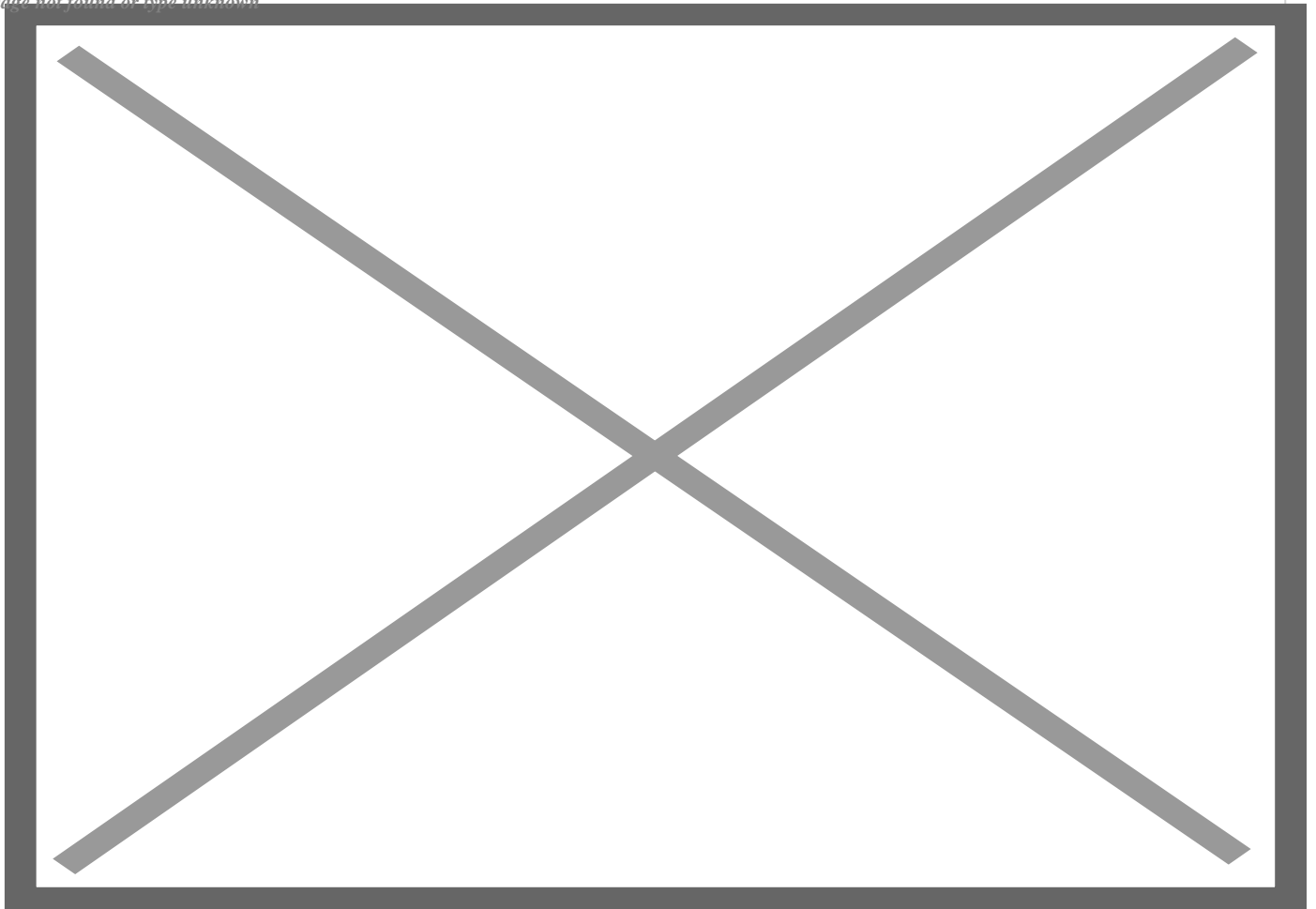


Lula rejects U.S. blockade against Cuba

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Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Brasilia, June 24 (RHC)-- Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva repudiated this Thursday the US blockade against Cuba, condemned for the twenty-ninth time in the United Nations, with the support of 184 votes of its member states.

The blockade to Cuba has existed for 60 years, affirmed the founder of the Workers' Party during an interview with journalist Jorge Gestoso, of the program Notables, on the multi-state television station Telesur.

He pointed out that the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, died, and the siege continues, and 'the same happens with Venezuela'.

He considered that it is the Venezuelan people who 'have to solve the Venezuelan problem. Nor will I be the one to tell the United States what is good for the United States? Let each country take care of its democracy', he stressed.

For Lula, 'we do not have to ask permission from the United States to do things. We do it in the interest of the people. That's how it has to be in a multilateral world'.

'I don't accept the idea that the United States is the beacon of the world. Brazil has to talk to all countries without subordinating itself to anything. (...) What we cannot have is that Latin America, after 500 years, continues to be poor, needy, with many people hungry, without work', he pointed out.

In other aspects, the former labor leader condemned the devastation of the Amazon promoted by the government of President Jair Bolsonaro, under the administration of the now former Minister of Environment Ricardo Salles.

He alluded to the country's sovereignty over the forest, seen as potentially beneficial for all humankind.

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