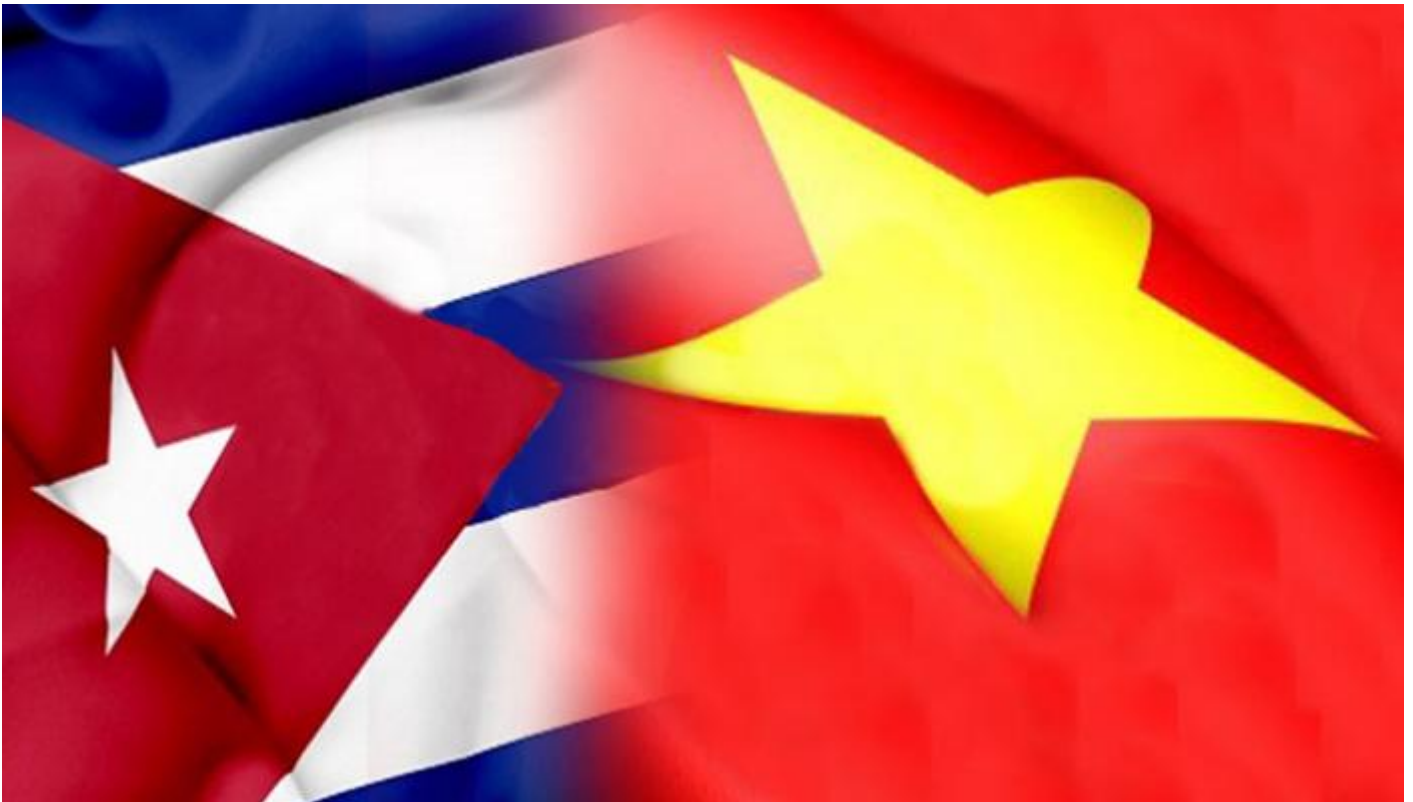


# *Vietnamese Communist Party Leader Receives Visiting Cuban Official*

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Hanoi, September 19 (RHC) -- The General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Phu Trong, has held a meeting with the visiting Cuban Vice President of the Council of State, Mercedes Lopez Acea, who paid a working visit to Vietnam as part of a tour of Asian countries.

Mercedes Lopez Acea, who is also the Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party in Havana Province, briefed her host on the outcome of her talks with the Secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee Pham Quang Nghi, and reported initial positive results in Cuba's economic reforms.

According to a report by the Vietnam News Agency, Lopez Acea thanked Vietnam for its valuable support of Cuba and declared her country's commitment to fostering the long-term solidarity and friendship between the two countries.

General Secretary Trong said he believed that by updating its economic model, Cuba can promote labor productivity and efficiency, thus helping its economy grow rapidly.

He also affirmed Vietnam's support for Cuba and asked both sides to share experience; work harder to

deepen their relations with regard to economics and trade, science and technology, and culture and education; and educate their young generations on the countries' special friendship.

Earlier, Mercedes Lopez Acea and Pham Quang Nghi held talks during which they exchanged lessons learned during Vietnam's renewal period and Cuba's economic reforms, and discussed concrete measures to boost bilateral ties.

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