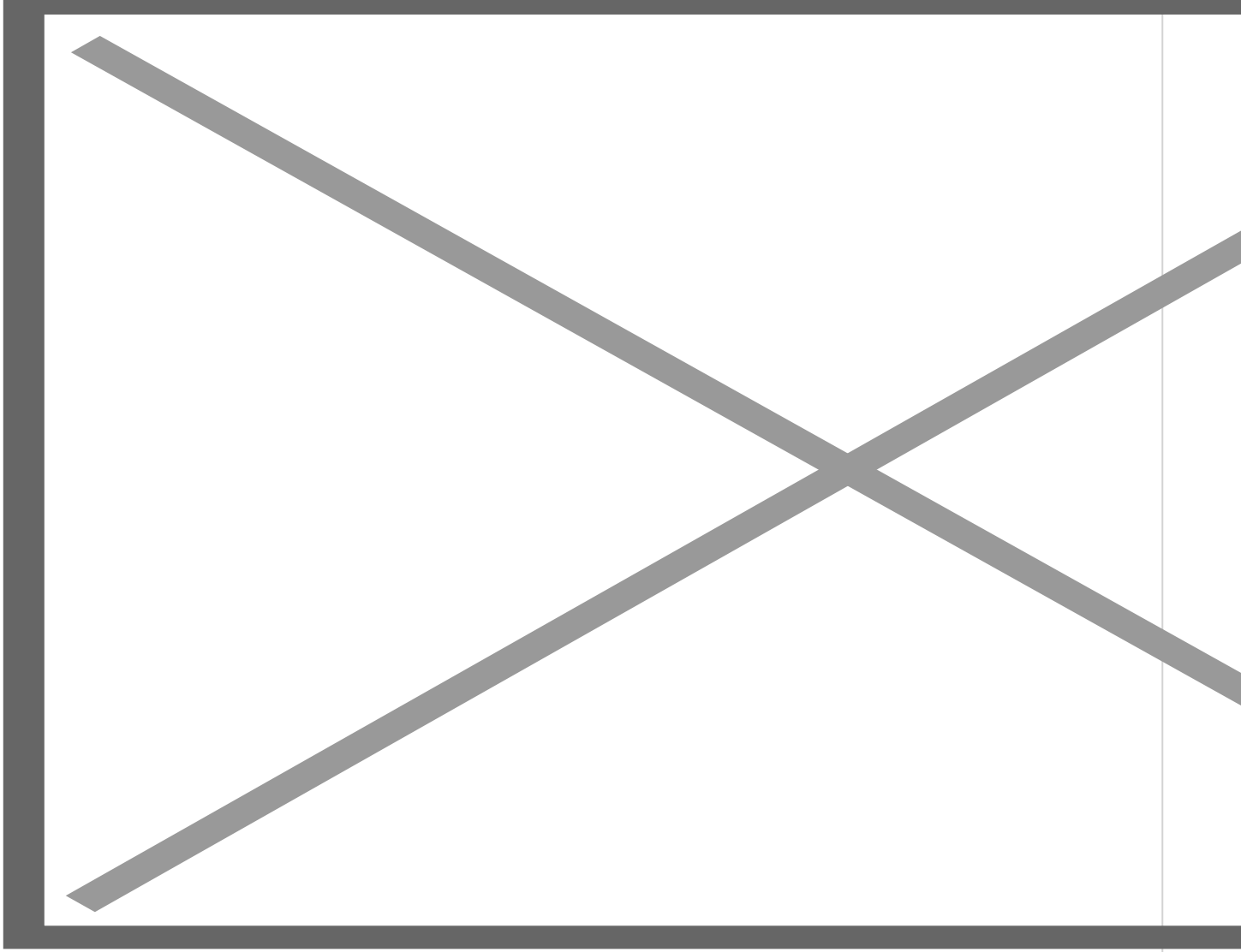


Cuban president supports Serbian sovereignty and solution to European crisis

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Belgrade, February 3 (RHC)-- Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel supported Serbian sovereignty and advocated a diplomatic and realistic solution to the Ukrainian conflict, in statements published the day before in CorD Magazine.

Díaz-Canel insisted that, in accordance with the norms of international law, Cuba will maintain its principled position based on respect for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and its right to sovereignty over its entire territory.

The head of state considered, on the other hand, that the conflict in Ukraine has serious regional and international implications.

The efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to maintain its progressive expansion towards Russia's borders led to a scenario of unpredictable consequences, which could have been avoided, the statesman commented.

We advocate a diplomatic and realistic solution to the current crisis in Europe that will ensure security and stability for all and solve genuine humanitarian problems.

Increased arms supplies to Ukraine and unilateral sanctions against Russia only contribute to deepening the conflict, he added.

Cuba adheres to international law and the UN Charter and will always defend peace, rejects sanctions against Russia and efforts to subject that country to isolation in international organizations, the Caribbean leader stressed.

The publication points out that Díaz-Canel visited Serbia, the first time an island leader had done so in 40 years, to give an additional boost to historical relations that have been going on for decades. In the interview to CorD Magazine, the Cuban leader reaffirmed that his country will maintain its rejection of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence. Díaz-Canel pointed out that, from Cuba's point of view, Serbia is a friendly nation, with which his country maintains excellent political ties that tend to strengthen. Serbia is making great efforts to maintain regional stability and peace, as well as to achieve economic development, in the midst of a complicated geostrategic situation, the head of state said.

The Cuban president highlighted in the interview the warm welcome of the Serbian people in the streets and boulevards of Belgrade. On the other hand, he stressed that the spheres with more possibilities for cooperation are agriculture, tourism, health, biopharmaceutical industry, science, culture and sports

The governmental agreement in the agricultural sphere, signed in Belgrade during the visit, is part of a series of cooperation agreements signed in recent years, the island's president noted. Serbian President Alexander Vucic referred to the possibility that Cuba could buy agricultural products, which would help us diversify the sources of imports, the head of state said. In addition, the option of resuming the work of the joint intergovernmental commission between the two countries to strengthen joint work in several areas received a strong boost, the Cuban president noted.

There are possibilities of collaboration in the field of health, such as primary health care and the treatment of lung cancer, whose drugs for its cure are produced in our country, he said.

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