

U.S. Congressional Delegation Travels to Cuba This Weekend



Washington, January 17 (RHC)-- A U.S. Congressional delegation comprised of six Democrats is arriving in Cuba this weekend, according to a CNN press release on Friday.

This is the first Congressional delegation to visit Cuba since President Barack Obama announced a change of policy, effectively easing the decades of old blockade.

U.S. congress representatives' itinerary includes meetings with Cuban government officials, a possible meeting with Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino, possible meetings with representatives of Cuba's civil society, a visit to the U.S. Interests Section, and a meeting with other ambassadors to Cuba. The delegation is arriving in Cuba on Saturday, and returns Monday evening to the U.S.

A spokesman for Sen. Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, told CNN that the delegation will seek "clarity from Cuba on what they envision normalization of relations to look like." The spokesman says the Congressional members "hope to develop a sense of what Cuba and United States are prepared to do to make a constructive relationship possible."

The delegation, besides Durbin, include: Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who is heading the group, Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and Rep. Peter Welch of Vermont.

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