

Venezuela does not extend presence of US diplomatic personnel



Washington, March 12 (RHC)—The United States has acquiesced to the request of the legitimate government of Venezuela, and will be withdrawing all its diplomatic personnel remaining in Caracas during the week.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said that on Monday, US diplomatic representative in Caracas, James Story, was summoned to be informed about the sovereign decision of the Bolivarian government not to extend the presence of U.S. diplomatic personnel in Venezuela.

The US diplomats have remained in the country despite the decision of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to cut off diplomatic ties with the United States after Washington recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as the Venezuelan interim president in January.

Pompeo, however, had previously refused to comply with the demands, stating that Maduro lacked legal authority to declare US diplomats persona non-grata

On Monday Pompeo announced that Washington would withdraw all its remaining personnel from Venezuela during the week, noting that the presence of the diplomats in the Latin American country had become "a constraint on US policy".

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