

# *Russia reiterates its rejection of the U.S. blockade against Cuba*

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**Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Serguei Riabkov. PL Photo**

Moscow, December 24 (RHC)-- Russia reiterated its rejection of the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba. It confirmed its commitment to develop and deepen its strategic cooperation with the island in various areas.

In statements to Prensa Latina news agency on Thursday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Serguei Riabkov congratulated the Cuban people for their national celebration, Liberation Day, and Christmas and the New Year.

The Deputy Minister recalled that Russia and Cuba historically are joined by relations of loyal allies and true strategic partners, based on mutual respect, trust, solidarity, and closeness.

We intend to make the necessary effort to consolidate and develop the whole spectrum of bilateral links and cooperate side-by-side in regional and international spaces, said Riabkov.

The diplomat added that without a doubt, the year that is ending was difficult because the Covid-19 pandemic in some ways tested the strength of the sincere friendship and solidarity of some states.

He added that Russia and Cuba passed that test successfully by demonstrating an even stronger union, a spirit of comradeship, and sincere and brotherly mutual support in the fight against a common evil.

He reiterated Russia's calls for the immediate elimination of the U.S. blockade, which is illegal, as it openly violates the UN Charter.

The diplomat said that bilateral relations are guided by the lines drawn by our heads of state for strengthening the strategic partnership and allied associations. We hope that by the beginning of 2021, we will reach mutually acceptable decisions on issues still to be resolved.

We confirm our interest in developing constructive cooperation with Havana in strategic directions such as energy, transport, agriculture, the metallurgical industry, health, and education, among others, the diplomats said.

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