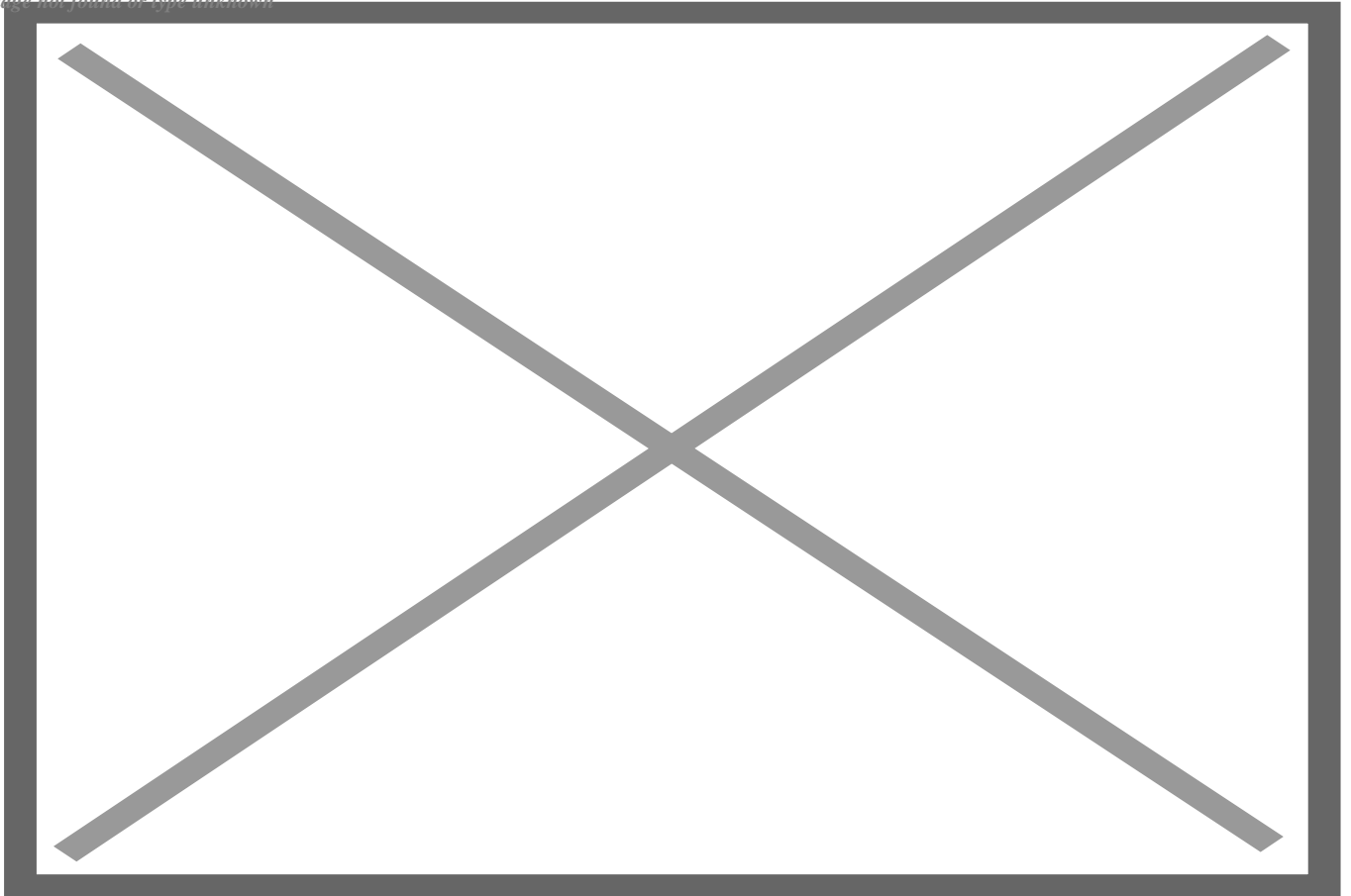


UN Secretary-General expresses solidarity with Cuba in the face of blaze in Matanzas

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Antonio Guterres (UN Photo)

United Nations, August 8 (RHC)-- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday expressed his solidarity with Cuba in the wake of the raging fire at a fuel depot in the western province of Matanzas, said his spokesman, Stéphane Dujarric.

The Secretary-General joins the United Nations team in Cuba, under the leadership of the resident coordinator, Consuelo Vidal, to express his condolences and maximum solidarity with the people and

government of the Caribbean country, said the spokesman in his press briefing on Monday.

He pointed out that the multilateral organization's team on the ground extends its support to the island's authorities and is closely following the situation. Dujarric also acknowledged that the authorities are working round the clock to extinguish the fire while four thousand people are evacuated.

The fire of great magnitude at the Supertanker Base in Matanzas province, about 100 kilometers from Havana, is currently in a highly complex situation. According to the head of the Fire Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Avalos, its suffocation could take several days.

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