

## Country-Specific Questions: Cuba, Embargo

### QUESTION

Does Canada support the recent U.S. decision to loosen its restrictions on Cuba regarding humanitarian assistance?

### SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada is encouraged by the relaxation of the economic embargo against Cuba recently announced by the U.S. Administration. The people of Cuba are clearly suffering unnecessary economic hardship.
- The facilitation of humanitarian shipments, and the lifting of restrictions on Cuban Americans sending funds to their relatives, are important gestures.
- However, the embargo remains essentially intact. Canada disagrees with the embargo and our opposition to the Helms-Burton legislation is well-known. We remain concerned about the continued unilateral application by the U.S. of extraterritorial sanctions.
- Canada believes that the goals of full respect for human rights, genuinely representative institutions and a open economy in Cuba are best achieved through a policy of engagement rather than isolation. Canada's policy on Cuba, reflected in the Canada-Cuba Joint Declaration of January 1997, actively pursues these goals.