

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

The decision by Cuba's government to choose new leadership should be the occasion for a tough-minded review of U.S. policy.

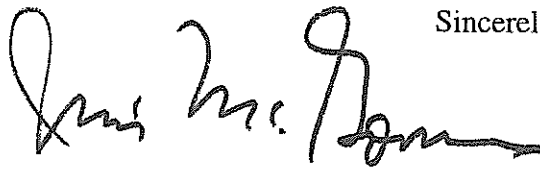
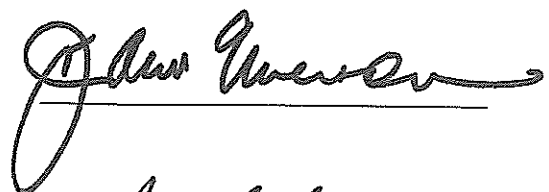


President Castro has departed from his office voluntarily. An orderly succession has occurred in Cuba, without violence or upheaval. The Cuban government, under a new leadership, is reportedly already considering changes in the economic arrangements on the island to give the Cuban people a long-sought improvement in their living standards.

For five decades, U.S. policy has tried economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation to force changes in Cuba's government. These developments demonstrate that the policy has not worked. Allies and adversaries alike have rejected our approach and instead engage the Cuban government directly on diplomatic issues and make billions of dollars in economic investments on the island, making it even less likely that our sanctions will ever achieve their stated purpose.

Our policy leaves us without influence at this critical moment, and this serves neither the U.S. national interest nor average Cubans, the intended beneficiaries of our policy. A complete review of U.S. policy is clearly in order now. This would send a useful signal to the Cuban people that we intend to engage with their government in new and positive ways, and also provide a new hearing for U.S. policy in many places around the region.

After fifty years, it is time for us to think and act anew.

Sincerely,

Jerry Baldoni

Marion Buehler

Harold D. B. Rogers

Bob Fisher

Holly Wood

Marion Brey

Calvin Fattal

Jim Oberstar

~~Gregory Weeks~~

Rosa L. DeLauro

Jim Moran

Jerry Moran

Ernie

Charles R. Rife

Ron Paul

Michael Wanda

Buffy McCalla

P. Logan

Ray Schoob

Vic Snyder

Judy Biggert

Alice Cohen

T. J.

Ann Turner

Sam Lars

Conrad King

Joe E. Lewis

Jim Truitt

Siane E. Watson

Mike Duff

D. R. King

Boat Gordon

Willis

Ron Kind

Debra King

Marcy Koptur

Dms Masen

Mike Shroy

Mike Michael

Lynn A. Wolsey

Barbara Lee

Janet Harman

Peggy A. King

Ellen Dauscher

Jan Schakowsky

W. J. King
WJ-K

CB King

John W. Oliver

Adrian E. Reed

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Neil Abernethy

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Sam DeLette

Steve H.

E. Pomeroy

Dennis J. Kucner Joe Kord

Liz Capps Ral

Alle E. Lilee Arnold Nadler

Greg Miller Pete Stark

John Myers John Lewis

Art Ellis David Price

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Earl Blumens Joe Brown

Col. F. C.

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Danny K. Davis

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Hay A. Wapner

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Loetta Sarch

Luella Keybel-Allard

L. W. Davis

Rick Barker

V. W. Udaer

Jan 2 1911

Bipartisan Congressional Letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
Calling for Tough-Minded Review of U.S.-Cuba Policy
February 19, 2008
104 Signatories

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