



BACKGROUND

What the Castro Regime is Saying About Cuban-Americans Traveling to Cuba

Raul Castro

“We take this step as a contribution to the increase in links between the nation and the émigré community, whose makeup has changed radically since the first decades of the revolution.” – on why the government is reforming Cuba’s migration policies.

“In their overwhelming majority Cubans today emigrate because of economic reasons, and almost all of them preserve their love for family and country.”

(The Miami Herald, “Castro tells parliament he’s working to ease migration regulations”, August 2, 2011)

Bruno Rodriguez, Cuban Foreign Minister

“Cuba’s history has always been tied to her emigration.”

“Cuban emigration has always been plentiful and has always been patriotic.”

“Until now, the vast majority of Cuban emigration, like the nation, has been attacked and blocked. It is suffering from the use of U.S. immigration policy as a weapon against Cuba to create pretexts of aggression, internal destabilization and subversion.”

“The Cuban Adjustment Act and the ‘wet foot-dry foot policy’ encourage illegal and unsafe emigration and cost numerous lives. They have turned those emigrants into political refugees who are fleeing in search of liberty.

“And the Revolution has had to defend itself on the migration issue, but it has never renounced its natural relations with Cuban residents living abroad and the will of the Cuban government is invariably to advance the full normalization of relations in regards to emigration. **We remain steadfast in our purpose to facilitate, more and more, the contact and communication between Cubans that live abroad and their families in Cuba.**

“The process of normalizing relations between Cuba and her migration is permanent and irreversible.”

(Guerrillero- Edicion Digital, Speech at the start of the “Cubans Living Abroad Against the Blockade, in Defense of National Sovereignty, January 27, 2010)

Official State Newspaper Supports Easing Travel Restrictions on Cuban Exiles

“With us, primarily the young people, as those who are currently building the Revolution, lies the opportunity to begin a process of normalizing relations between the Cuban people who live inside and outside of Cuba... after all we are the same people.” –El Guerrillero, Pinar del Rio Province Newspaper

“We cannot limit [our people’s] identity simply because we have chosen different paths.” –El Guerrillero, Pinar del Rio Province Newspaper

(El Nuevo Herald, “Prensa oficial llama a reconciliación de cubanos de la isla y emigrados”, August 9, 2011)