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**Vietnam Sends Aid to Cuba to Help Hurricane Recovery Efforts**

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Vietnamese leaders have sent letters of solidarity to the Cuban people and government following the devastating Hurricane Irma.

Vietnam is formalizing a plan to send Cuba a shipment of aid as they recover from the damages caused by Hurricane Irma after it ripped along the Caribbean country's coast as a category 5 hurricane last week, Prensa Latina reported.

**RELATED:** [Cuba Cleans Up Hurricane Damage, Receives Venezuela Aid](#)

The vice president of the Union of Friendship Organizations of Vietnam (VUFO), Don Tuan Phong, spoke to Prensa Latina saying that the Vietnamese express their solidarity and encouragement to Cuba, emphasizing the close economic, political and cultural ties build between their nations. Phong said that Cuba has been with Vietnam during its most difficult times.

Earlier this week, Vietnamese leaders, including Communist Party Secretary-General Nguyen Phu Trong, President Tran Dai Quang, and the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc sent letters of condolences and solidarity to the Cuban people and government.

Phong also said that a Vietnamese delegation will be traveling to Cuba in October to participate in the commemoration for the 50th anniversary of Che Guevara's assassination.

Teams of volunteers are currently beginning the long process of cleaning and rebuilding from the damage left in the wake of Hurricane Irma, a hurricane that meteorologists have described as one of the most powerful in the Caribbean in a century.

Venezuela has contributed ten tons of material aid, including food, drinking water, medicine, and other needed items to Cuba, in addition to its assistance to other affected Caribbean islands.

For its part, Cuba has sent 771 medical professionals to other Caribbean islands suffering the storm's devastation.

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