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Raúl welcomes Díaz-Canel home

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The First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, the morning of May 31, received Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez at José Martí International Airport, as the President of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers returned from a state visit to Venezuela.

During his stay in the sister nation, Diaz-Canel completed a busy work agenda that included an official visit with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who awarded him the “Liberadores y Libertadoras” Order in the first degree.

“Having been judged worthy of Venezuela’s Order of Liberators, it is to Cuba, to Cuban men and women, to whom this immense honor is conferred,” stated Diaz-Canel.

“This decision further encourages our commitment and solidarity with the courageous Bolivarian and Chavista people,” he affirmed following the decoration ceremony.

Nicolás Maduro Moros, Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, stated, “It is within the framework of ALBA that the Cuban Revolution and the Bolivarian Revolution unite to say: America lives, America struggles,

America dreams, America has the right to a future!"

Upon arriving in Caracas, May 30, the President of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, said he was bringing a fraternal message of solidarity from Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, from the Cuban people and government, for the Bolivarian people and government, and President Nicolás Maduro.

Sunday May 20, like many Cubans, like many Cuban families, we spent practically the whole day following what was happening in Venezuela on television, fully convinced that you would win. When Maduro's victory was announced, we felt this victory as our own, the Cuban President recalled.

"Our solidarity with Venezuela, with the Bolivarian Chavista Revolution, with the civic-military union of its people, and with its President, Nicolás Maduro Moros, is inalterable," Díaz-Canel stated in his speech to the National Constituent Assembly.

"It would appear that supporting Venezuela is not fashionable. But they are not going to confuse us. We are here defending a sovereign choice of a people. And we will continue to do so," he continued.

"Now Venezuela needs our solidarity; needs the backing of the peoples of Our America in its resistance to the criminal political, diplomatic, economic, and financial war of which it is a victim," Díaz-Canel insisted.

"We must firmly repudiate attempts by the U.S. government to resuscitate the aggressive, old Monroe Doctrine, which aims to return the region to the era of interventionism," he stated.

"The resounding electoral victory of Chavista forces in the Presidential elections this past May 20 constitutes a strategic victory for the Bolivarian Revolution and Our America. This victory of yours is also a victory for all of Our America, evidence of the peoples' political growth and a demonstration of the continuing relevance of the legacy of Comandante Chávez within the soul of Venezuela," the Cuban President continued.

"We sincerely admire the courage and audacity of Venezuelan revolutionaries, of the Bolivarian vanguard, and your civic-military union. We admire the political and moral stature of compañero Nicolás Maduro, his patience and flexibility, his intransigence toward those who relentlessly insult and attack his homeland," he stated.

The Cuban President added, "Only a people that understands well the origin of its problems can stay the course amidst so much manipulation and lying, and provide

an example like the one you Venezuelans have just given.”

Díaz-Canel recalled that in this same city, 60 years ago, Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz insisted, “What must be done is realize the ideas of Bolívar.”

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