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Russia pursuing aviation projects with Cuba

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Havana and Caracas are becoming reliable economic and military-technological partners for Moscow, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said.

"We are developing aviation projects with Cuba, and we have extended a loan to them for creating their own power generation industry. We have trusting relations in the military-technological field," Rogozin said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 (VGTRK) news TV channel on Dec. 30 30.

Cuba is "a credible and pragmatic partner" for Russia, Rogozin said. "It will be rising," he said.

"We have major contracts with Venezuela, despite the problems that the country is experiencing as a major oil exporter," he said.

"The main goal [for Russia] was not to drop through this year, when we have had these sanctions heaped on us, I mean the artificial, absolutely brazen and unlawful restrictions of our abilities to buy what we need for our development and sell what we have as a good product," Rogozin said.

"Despite these sanctions, we have maintained a high level of military-technological cooperation and made good money for our budget," he said.