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**Obama praises Cuba for holding Peace Talks**

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The U.S. President, Barack Obama, highlighted Cuba's work in the peace talks between Juan Manuel Santos' government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP).

"I thanked the Cuban government for holding these peace talks", stated the US head of state in a public interview released yesterday in *El Tiempo* newspaper.

According to the newspaper, the president noted that peace negotiations have moved forward since the restoration of relationships between Havana and Washington.

While commenting the subject of peace in Colombia, Obama also praised Santos' decision to negotiate.

I think no one thought it would be an easy call. It is tougher to end a war than starting one, noted Obama. Talks like these require commitment and taking risks.

He said recent progresses in the peace talks are "encouraging", including the new deadline for the final agreement.

Obama also commented that Colombia will become a model of how to reach peace with justice once the agreement can be signed.

True peace is not only the absence of war. Any agreement must be implemented. True peace

needs safety, opportunities, and human rights being respected, stated the U.S. president.

**Cubasi Translation Staff**

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