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US President Concludes Official Visit to Cuba

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Havana, Mar 22 (Prensa Latina) U.S. President, Barack Obama, concludes today his visit here with a public speech and his attendance to the baseball match between the Cuban national team and the MLB American League representative, Tampa Bay Rays. At the Alicia Alonso Gran Teatro in Havana, Obama will address to a representation of the Cuban civil society and shortly after, he will go to the Latinoamericano Stadium, located in the Havana neighborhood of Cerro, where he will attend along with local authorities the expected baseball game, to end a visit described as historic by international media.

On Monday, during his second day of stay in Cuba, Obama met with President, Raul Castro, after which both presidents gave statements to the national and international press.

During the meeting held in the Palace of the Revolution, the two heads of State talked about areas of mutual interest in which both nations can advance despite differences.

About this issue, the Cuban president told reporters the will to advance in the civilized coexistence, to promote ties for the benefit of their countries and peoples, so he urged to "focus on what approaches us and not in what separates us."

Raul Castro highlighted the steps taken by the United States and Cuba, such as the signing of a document on cooperation in agriculture and the development of another group of bilateral exchanges in the areas of health, fighting drug trafficking, and security of trade and travelers.

For his part, Obama acknowledged Cuba's special achievements in sectors such as health and education, while reaffirmed some steps taken by his administration to advance in ties with the island.

In opinion of the first American statesman who visits Havana in almost 90 years, those steps to modify restrictions imposed by the economic, commercial and financial blockade implemented against Cuba more than 50 years ago

can generate more opportunities to develop trade, business and joint ventures.

Prior to his meeting yesterday with Raul Castro, the U.S. president laid a wreath to Cuba's National Hero, Jose Marti, at the Revolution Square in Havana, and toured the memorial dedicated to the national hero, where he signed the guestbook.

Obama also attended yesterday a business forum held by businessmen and entrepreneurs from the two countries, in which he stated that the Cuban economy is changing and the United States is willing to accompany that process.

Obama and his family arrived in Havana on Sunday afternoon, they visited the Havana Cathedral and had dinner at a private run restaurants, known as "paladar," where they tasted the traditional Cuban food.

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