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**Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov Confirms Support for Cuba and Venezuela**

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Russian Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov has confirmed his government's support for Cuba and Venezuela.

On Wednesday, Lavrov participated in a meeting with students of the Latin America and Caribbean Group at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Participants in the meeting included Russian citizens, who have been assigned to high ranking positions in foreign service such as ambassadors, counselors, envoys and consuls general.

Referring to the recent visit of U.S. President Barack Obama to Cuba, Minister Lavrov said the Russian stance against the U.S. blockade on Cuba remains the same and demanding the immediate lifting of the U.S. punitive, coercive policy towards its neighboring Caribbean state.

On Venezuela, Lavrov said Russian authorities are watching closely the situation in the South American country, arguing that foreign actors are fueling internal tensions.

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