

Sen. Bernard Sanders, in his former capacity as a Democratic Presidential candidate. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

Statement on United States-Cuba Normalization October 14, 2016

Today I approved a Presidential policy directive that takes another major step forward in our efforts to normalize relations with Cuba. This directive takes a comprehensive and whole-of-Government approach to promote engagement with the Cuban Government and people and make our opening to Cuba irreversible.

In December 2014, following more than 50 years of failed policy, I announced that the United States would begin a process of normalizing relations with Cuba. Since then, we've worked with the people and the Government of Cuba to do exactly that: reestablishing diplomatic relations, opening Embassies, expanding travel and commerce, and launching initiatives to help our people cooperate and innovate. This new directive consolidates and builds upon the changes we've already made, promotes transparency by being clear about our policy and intentions, and encourages further engagement between our countries and our people.

Consistent with this approach, the Departments of Treasury and Commerce issued further regulatory changes today, building on the progress made over the last 2 years, to continue to facilitate more interaction between the Cuban and American people, including

through travel and commercial opportunities, and more access to information. This follows previous changes that helped facilitate interconnectivity between our peoples and to promote economic reforms on the island by providing access to the dollar in international transactions. These changes are representative of the progress I saw firsthand when I visited Havana to personally extend a hand of friendship to the Cuban people. The quick flight over 90 miles of blue water belied the real barriers of the past that were crossed that day, but my interactions with everyday Cubans told a promising story of neighbors working to build broader ties of cooperation across the Americas.

Challenges remain—and very real differences between our governments persist on issues of democracy and human rights—but I believe that engagement is the best way to address those differences and make progress on behalf of our interests and values. The progress of the last 2 years, bolstered by today's action, should remind the world of what's possible when we look to the future together.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Directive on United States-Cuba Normalization October 14, 2016

Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-43

Memorandum for the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of

Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the United States Trade Representative, the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor, the Assistant to the President and Counsel to the