

Castro's Ghost Haunts Central America

by Steve Hecht



The Obama-Castro alliance extends far beyond Cuba, and understanding this is the key to resolving the plight of Central America. Their agenda stands in the way of economic development and reducing the flight of Central Americans and contraband to the United States.

On Thursday and Friday in Miami, senior Trump administration officials – Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, and Homeland Security Secretary Kelly – will [News reports](#) indicate that on Friday in Miami Trump will also announce changes to US-Cuba policy.

The two issues link inextricably.

A turnaround for Cuba and the Northern Triangle will require more than amending trade and travel rules enacted under

President Obama. His embrace of the regime in Cuba and Fidel Castro's allies in Central America did more harm than that.

Guatemala is the key country in the Northern Triangle for US interests, given a 595-mile, very porous border with Mexico. Since Mexico cannot stop the flow of illegals, narcotics, and weapons, Guatemala is an unlocked backdoor.

Those bringing lawlessness to the rural areas trace their roots back to Castro's meddling in Guatemala. In the early 1970s, Castro [URNG](#) (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity) became the umbrella group of four organizations attempting to violently overthrow the government. The four groups disbanded with the 1996 peace accords, but the URNG became a political party pursuing the same goal.

With pressure from President Obama's ambassador, Todd Robinson, the Guatemalan judiciary is stacked with sympathizers to Castro's groups. They and the UN-created International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), praised by George Soros's Open Society, have protected the groups.

The results have been tragic for Guatemalans and harmful to US national security. Guatemala's murder rate, for example, [report](#) notes "Lack of economic opportunity, weak governance, and criminality has led to nearly 10 percent of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras's 30 million residents leaving in recent years."

US Customs and Border Protection [estimated](#) 723,000 illegal immigrants in United States, second only to Mexico (6.1 million). El Salvador (465,000) is third, and Honduras (337,000) is fourth.

A goal of the Conference on Development and Security is to build the economies of the Northern Triangle, alleviating the incentives for inhabitants to flee. The goal is laudable: without security, both physical and legal, there can be no

economic growth or prosperity.

Unfortunately, with Obama administration and CICIG help, the guerrilla successors control Guatemala's rural areas. They have forced the impoverished inhabitants to impede and sometimes destroy businesses.

In one case, the leftist-controlled high court suspended hydroelectric plants opposed by the militias. The American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala [implementer](#) of the Obama agenda in Guatemala: holdover Ambassador Todd Robinson.

President Trump can undo the damage done by Obama's inexplicable embrace of a murderous dictator. For decades, Castro worked against US interests around the world and supported terrorism against America and our allies.

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