
Russia Dismisses U.S. Tariff Threats Over Cuba Oil Aid



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Moscow—Russia has downplayed U.S. threats to impose tariffs on countries supplying oil to Cuba, confirming that discussions are ongoing to provide assistance to the Caribbean nation, amid its deepening fuel crisis.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Thursday that while Moscow does not

want to escalate tensions with Washington, it is actively considering ways to help Cuba. He noted that trade with the U.S. is limited, suggesting that U.S. tariff threats may have minimal practical impact.

The Trump administration has pledged to sanction any country providing oil to Cuba, describing the communist-run government as an “unusual and extraordinary threat.” This comes amid Cuba’s worsening energy shortage and broader economic difficulties.

Cuba has introduced emergency measures to address the crisis, including fuel rationing, restrictions on aviation refueling, shortened school days, and a reduced workweek at state-owned companies. International carriers, including Air Canada, have canceled flights due to limited aviation fuel, though repatriation of stranded travelers is underway.

Peskov emphasized that Russia aims for “constructive dialogue” with the U.S. regarding Cuba’s energy needs, while refraining from public discussions that could further complicate diplomacy. Analysts suggest that any Russian support could carry economic and political risks if U.S. tariffs are enforced.

Moscow’s approach reflects a balance between supporting Cuba, maintaining international obligations, and avoiding direct confrontation with Washington.