# Russian Warships Arrive in Cuba for Military Exercises, Amidst Cold War Echoes



**Russian Warships Reach Cuba Ahead of Military Exercises**

A fleet of Russian warships has arrived in Cuba this week in anticipation of planned military exercises, evoking memories of the Cold War missile crisis. The fleet, comprising a frigate, a nuclear-powered submarine, an oil tanker, and a rescue tug, crossed into Havana Bay after conducting drills in the Atlantic Ocean.

U.S. officials expect the Russian ships to remain in the Caribbean region throughout the summer and possibly make a stop in Venezuela. Russia, a longstanding ally of both Cuba and Venezuela, has periodically sent warships and aircraft into the Caribbean.

This deployment occurs less than two weeks after U.S. President Joe Biden authorized Ukraine to use American-provided weapons to strike within Russian territory to protect Kharkiv. This move by Russia comes at a tense time but has been characterized by U.S. officials as "routine naval visits."

The intelligence community has assessed that none of the vessels in the fleet are carrying nuclear weapons. Russian ships have docked in Havana on multiple occasions since 2008, marking the first such visit in nearly two decades at that time. In 2015, a reconnaissance and communications ship arrived unannounced in Havana just before discussions began between U.S. and Cuban officials on reopening diplomatic relations.

The State Department has noted that while Russia’s military exercises have intensified, they remain part of routine naval activities, albeit amidst heightened international tensions.