Cuba Prepares for a Possible U.S. Military Attack



Cuban military equipment moves through Revolution Square during a parade marking the 50th anniversary of the failed Bay of Pigs landing, in Havana.

HAVANA (Dispatches) - **Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has announced that his country is preparing for the possibility of a U.S. military attack, following remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump that were widely interpreted as a threat.**

Díaz-Canel said that Cuba "does not attack or threaten any nation" but will reject any foreign military aggression. He called on Washington to end the "genocidal blockade", which is how Havana describes the U.S. embargo, and to stop the collective punishment of Cubans.

He said recent statements by U.S. officials and politicians encourage a military attack, and that Cuba has therefore activated wartime structures to work in peacetime. He added that the UN General Assembly, the world body's main forum of all member states, has repeatedly voted against the embargo, which has lasted more than six decades.

We are determined to repel any attempt to launch foreign military aggression against our country, Díaz-Canel said, stressing that Cuba is a peaceful country and poses no threat to U.S. national security.

Earlier on Thursday, Trump was asked by radio host Hugh Hewitt whether he was considering military intervention to liberate Cuba. He replied: I want to get Cuba wrapped up before I leave office.

Polymarket, a crypto-based prediction exchange, priced "U.S. military action against Cuba by 31 December" at 8.5% on Saturday 14 November at about 09:30 Eastern Time, with about $7.7 million traded. A separate market on a full U.S. invasion of Cuba in 2026 stood at 2.3%, with about $3.7 million traded.

Americans with family or business ties to Cuba face a longer period of tension rather than one decision point. Travel rules, remittance channels and flights to Havana are set in Washington and Havana.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a meeting with his Cuban counterpart in said that the country would firmly support Cuba in safeguarding national sovereignty and in opposing sanctions, blockades and external interference "no matter how circumstances evolve."

"China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Cuba in multilateral affairs, continue supporting and cooperating with each other in multilateral forums, and jointly oppose power politics and unilateral actions," Wang said, according to the official Chinese summary of the meeting.

Report: U.S. Army in Europe Faces Spare Parts Shortages Due to Ukraine Aid



U.S. soldiers are seen waiting in the U.S. state of Georgia to board a plane bound for Europe.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) - **Ukraine support is draining resources from U.S. troops stationed in Europe and damaging their combat readiness, according to a new Pentagon inspector general report.**

In its report to Congress in November, the watchdog said the U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) was forced to divert resources from U.S. forces and longstanding operations toward supporting Kyiv because of the lack of dedicated Ukraine funding in fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

"These resource gaps have negatively impacted USAREUR-AF's overall readiness, training effectiveness, and capacity to exercise operations plans," the report states.

In particular, Ukraine-related operations were consuming funds intended for routine deployments and essential spare parts for U.S. military equipment. On top of that, some rotating U.S. units returned to their home bases with unpaid spare-parts bills, according to the report. An earlier report for January-March said the command redirected a total of $364.6 million from other requirements to support Ukraine.

The funding squeeze stemmed from failure to approve major emergency aid packages for Ukraine in 2025 and 2026 in Congress, where many Republican leaders vehemently opposed the "blank-check" policy for Ukraine. Since returning to office, U.S. President Donald Trump has also opposed further large-scale U.S.-funded aid packages for Ukraine, seeking instead to shift the financial burden onto Kyiv's European backers.

The U.S. has committed more than $198 billion in Ukraine aid since 2022, much of it under former President Joe Biden. Of that total, around $65 billion remained available for payment as of late September. However, $60.71 billion of this is already legally committed to contracts and other obligations, leaving the Trump administration limited room to redirect or halt the spending.

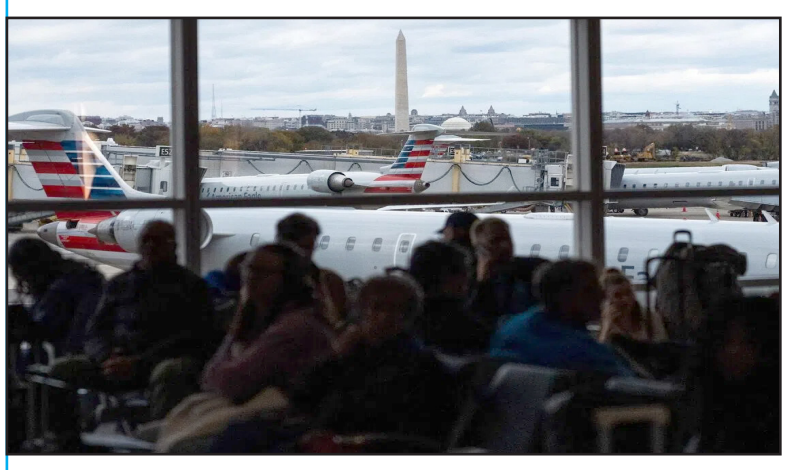
The Pentagon has also struggled to replenish weapons and ammunition taken from U.S. military stockpiles to supply Ukraine. The watchdog cited a $38.6 billion backlog of unfunded requirements to replenish U.S. military stockpiles depleted by Ukraine aid.

In addition, last year's Pentagon audit found that the department failed to maintain controls over the use of funds aimed to replenish aid sent to Kyiv, noting that funding reallocations, worth $5.7 billion, lacked adequate documentation. Auditors also identified $920 million in missed opportunities to use replenishment funds and found that the military overstated spending commitments and payments to Congress.

Since coming into office, Trump has resisted unconditional aid to Ukraine, opting instead to sell weapons to the country as part of the NATO-coordinated PURL mechanism where most procurements are financed by Ukraine's European backers.

While Trump's policy does not erase Biden-era commitments, a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers accused his administration this week of delaying the execution of a separate $400 million Ukraine aid package until the final weeks of the fiscal year.

Ground Stop Highlights Chronic Vulnerabilities in U.S. Air Traffic System



The Federal Aviation Administration's ageing air traffic control infrastructure has had several disruptive failures in recent months.

WASHINGTON (AP) – **The nationwide ground stop that brought air travel across the U.S. to a halt on Saturday has highlighted persistent weaknesses in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) ageing air traffic control infrastructure that has had several disruptive failures in recent months.**

Officials called for the rare ground stop after outdated communications lines became overloaded and began to fail, interrupting communication between air traffic controllers and pilots, according to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin.

The breakdown occurred less than two months after a circuit failure and severed fibre optic cable caused crippling ground stops and delays at airports along the East Coast. Smaller outages unfolded in October at Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina and George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, when contractors accidentally cut into a fibre line.

The Nov 13 ground stop, which was only the third the FAA has issued this century, eclipsed the fallout of previous air traffic communications equipment failures. The FAA has yet to identify precisely what caused communications lines to falter.

But the successive episodes have underscored the structural vulnerabilities that continue to hamper air traffic controllers' ability to safely manage flight traffic, even after concerted efforts to make improvements. And they raised questions about whether the federal authorities have done enough to create backup systems and redundancies to prevent disruptive or even catastrophic failures.

For decades, air traffic communications have relied on a system that runs on analogue copper wire, floppy disks and alphabetical keyboards so old that the FAA has difficulty sourcing spare parts. In 2025, Congress approved US$12.5 billion (S$16.1 billion) in funding to help pay for upgrades, after a series of outages in air traffic control facilities, including the one serving Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, caused alarming losses of radar and other communications capabilities.

Earlier in November, L3Harris, the primary telecoms contractor tasked to manage the system upgrades, boasted on its website that it had converted about 70% of the copper line to fibre optic cable; last week, the FAA announced it would begin to phase out floppy disks.

2 Injured, Several Arrested as Protesters Try to Reach ASEAN Summit Venue in Manila



MANILA (Anadolu) – **At least two people were injured and several others arrested after police blocked demonstrators attempting to reach the venue of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in the Philippine capital Manila on Sunday, local media reported.**

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said at least five people were taken into custody after demonstrators refused to leave the area near the Philippine International Convention Center, where the 49th ASEAN Leaders' Summit is being held, the Manila Times reported.

Gen. Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., the PNP chief, called for the peaceful and responsible expression of views amid planned protests during the regional gathering.

Several rights groups have planned demonstrations tied to the summit, including protests against the visit of US President Donald Trump.

Student groups have also announced plans for walkouts, while transport group PISTON has scheduled a transport strike during the summit period.

The government has deployed nearly 23,000 security personnel, including more than 19,000 police officers, to secure venues, hotels, transportation routes, and other key locations during the summit.

The police said they recognized and respected the constitutional right of citizens to peaceful assembly, urging organizers to coordinate with local authorities and comply with existing laws governing public gatherings to ensure public safety and order.

Nartatez also ordered all concerned police commanders to maintain operational readiness for emergencies, traffic disruptions, and potential security incidents while ensuring that any police intervention is supported by clear legal grounds.

Thousands Rally Against COP31 as Climate Talks Hit Midpoint

ANTALYA (Reuters) – **Thousands of protesters took to the streets on Saturday in the Turkish city hosting COP31 to accuse the climate summit of failing those bearing the brunt of environmental destruction.**

The show of dissent comes as negotiators approach the crunch final week of global climate talks in Antalya, with nearly 200 nations scrambling to strike a deal by Nov 20.

The summit is not expected to produce a major breakthrough, frustrating activists demanding tougher curbs on planet-warming fossil fuels and fresh pledges to help poorer countries adapt to climate impacts.

In downtown Antalya, under rainy skies, thousands of protesters dressed in costumes and shouting slogans marched under close police supervision in the largest demonstration since COP31 began on Nov 9.

"We are suffering the consequences of climate injustice, yet our voices are never heard at the COP," said Halime Saman from the People's Climate Summit platform, one of the groups behind the rally.

"Turkey is the co-chair of COP31, but still has no roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels. New power stations and coal mines are being opened," she told AFP.

Yasar Gokoglu, a 78-year-old demonstrator, travelled nearly 600km from Adana in southern Turkey to denounce what he called "a masquerade sponsored by monopolies".

Police estimated that more than 7,000 people attended the protest, which was organized by environmental groups, trade unions and rights organizations and proceeded without any major incident.

Much smaller demonstrations inside the COP31 venue this week, including one attended by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, have been mounting pressure on political leaders to act faster on the climate crisis.

The negotiations hit the halfway point on Saturday, but countries remain far apart on contentious issues including financing adaptation measures in developing nations, defending climate science, and shifting from fossil fuels to clean energy.

Australia's Climate Minister Chris Bowen, who is chairing the formal negotiations, said there had been "really good and positive conversations", but some issues required more time.

Outside the negotiations, Turkey is urging countries to join a voluntary pledge to raise the share of global final energy demand met by electricity.

News in Brief

PARIS (AFP) - French President Emmanuel Macron has denounced a "spirit of defeat" over Ukraine, putting the European leader at odds with Washington's continued push to end the Western countries' war on Russia. U.S. President Donald Trump, whose policies have been blamed for rising fuel prices in the United States, has called for negotiations to end the war. Trump said last week he was confident his administration was close to brokering a peace deal between Moscow and Kyiv. "I think we're going to have it done and I think it's going to happen and they're going to end up with a little bit different shape," he said on the CBS News program *60 Minutes* last Sunday. Macron wrote on X on Saturday, "Let us be clear: those who want to restrict Ukraine's resources ultimately want to force it into an unjust peace," leaving the country permanently vulnerable and, by extension, Europe as well.

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MADRID (Reuters) - Nearly 1,500 migrants arrived in Spain's Canary Islands on Saturday, marking the highest number of arrivals in a single day since 2020, according to the EFE news agency. A total of 1,488 people aboard 14 boats were rescued by the Spanish coastguard, EFE reported Sunday, citing the maritime rescue service. The latest arrivals come amid a surge in migration from West African countries to the Spanish archipelago since October. The previous single-day record was 1,461 people rescued in waters off the Canary Islands on Nov. 7, 2020, maritime rescue services said Sunday. One of the boats rescued on Saturday was carrying 240 people, including 12 women and 36 children, authorities said. The migrants were taken to El Hierro, one of the smallest islands in the archipelago.

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WASHINGTON (AFP) - A UPS cargo plane and a Copa Airlines passenger jet collided at Miami International Airport in the U.S. state of Florida late Saturday, prompting an emergency response, local media reported. No injuries were reported in the collision, CBS News reported, citing airport officials. The aircraft involved were a UPS Boeing 767 and a Copa Airlines Boeing 737, according to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. The collision occurred around 9.15 pm local time (0215GMT Sunday) when an arriving aircraft and a departing plane came into contact at the intersection of two taxiways, Greg Chin, communications director at Miami International Airport, said. "There are no reported injuries," Chin told CBS News Miami in a statement.

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WASHINGTON (AP) - Flavio Bolsonaro, who secretly traveled to the U.S. after losing Brazil's presidential election, said he plans to seek permanent residency amid concerns that he could face political pressure and prosecution if he returns to Brazil. Bolsonaro, who fled to Miami with his family after losing the second round of Brazil's presidential election, told The Epoch Times in an interview that he would continue his political activities in Brazil from abroad. He said he could defend his country from the U.S. and would continue communicating with his political supporters and making decisions together.

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PRAGUE (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Czechs protested in Prague on Sunday against a government plan to cut a public media fee and move funding to the state budget – a policy critics say would dent the broadcasters' independence and viability. Opposition parties compared the proposals in an October bill to changes in Hungary under former Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who built an array of pro-government media. Local authorities had estimated hundreds of thousands would attend the rally days before the November 17 holiday commemorating the 1989 Velvet Revolution that swept away Communist rule and propelled dissident playwright Vaclav Havel to power.