



# EIB World Trade Headlines

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## DTRADE SHUT DOWN 2 DAYS

**Industry Notice:** The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) systems will undergo network maintenance on **Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 6:00am until 6:00pm EST**. During this time the DTrade system will be unavailable to accept submissions. EFS, TRS, ELLIE and MARY will be unavailable. **The [pmdtcc.state.gov](http://pmdtcc.state.gov) website will be unavailable. (08.16.13)**

**Industry Notice:** *DTrade SHA 256 Digital Certificates* - The DDTC technology department is working to ensure DTRADE2 is SHA-256 digital certificate compliant by December 30, 2013. Further SHA-256 digital certificate guidance from DDTC will be provided by September 2013. Should your digital certificate require renewal prior to December 30, 2013 please ensure you are purchasing the SHA-1 digital certificate that is compatible with DTRADE2 from your ACES GSA authorized vendor. (04.25.13)

## Implementation of Limited Syria Waiver for Reconstruction Assistance

Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.  
ACTION: Final rule. SUMMARY: The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) amends the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to implement a limited waiver, published by the Secretary of State on June 12, 2013, of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

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The waiver authorizes BIS to issue licenses on a case-by-case basis for the export or reexport of certain commodities, software, and technology necessary for the support of the Syrian people. Specifically, consistent with Section 5(b) of the SAA, Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004 and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), BIS implements the waiver by amending its Syria licensing policy under the EAR. BIS will review licenses on a case-by-case basis for the export or reexport of certain commodities, software, and technology, including, but not limited to, those related to water supply and sanitation, agricultural production and food processing, power generation, oil and gas production, construction and engineering, transportation, and educational infrastructure, as a means of helping to address the critical needs of the Syrian people and facilitating reconstruction. These exports are necessary to support a political transition, restore stability, and counter destabilizing influences in the region, and are therefore essential to the national security of the United States.

DATES: This rule is effective July 23, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Schrader, Senior Export Policy Analyst, Foreign Policy Division, Office of Nonproliferation and Treaty Compliance, Bureau of Industry and Security, by phone (202) 482-1338 or by email



## Helpful Web Sites by Agency

### U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division

[www.census.gov/t](http://www.census.gov/t)

AE Direct [www.aesdirect.gov](http://www.aesdirect.gov)

Schedule B Search Engine <http://census.gov/foreign-trade/schedules/b/>

USA Trade Online [usatrade.census.gov](http://usatrade.census.gov)

International Trade Administration (I A) U. S. Government Export Assistance [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov)

Basic Guide to Exporting [www.export.gov/basicguide](http://www.export.gov/basicguide)  
Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) BIS Homepage [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

### Export – Import Bank of the United States

Products and Services <http://exim.gov/products/>

### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Small Small Business Development Centers

[www.sba.gov/sbdc](http://www.sba.gov/sbdc)

### U.S Trade Representative s Office

USTR Homepage [www.ustr.gov/eNews](http://www.ustr.gov/eNews)

### U.S. Department of State

Director ate of De fens Trade Controls

[www.pmddtc.state.gov](http://www.pmddtc.state.gov)

### U.S. Department of the Treasury

Economic and Trade Sanctions

<http://treasury.gov/about/organizational-structure/offices/Pages/Office-of-Foreign-Assets-Control.aspx>

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## New York Company Settles AECA and ITAR Violations for \$8M after Making Voluntary Self-Disclosures

A Long Island, New York company, Aeroflex, Inc., has entered into an \$8 million settlement with the U.S. Department of State for an estimated 158 alleged violations of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

According to the nearly 18-page long Proposed Charging Letter, the Department considered the series of voluntary disclosures submitted by the company and its remedial compliance measures as “significant mitigating factors” in deciding the charges to pursue. The Department, however, found that there were significant national security interests involved and systemic and longstanding violations, including improper product classifications, and decided to charge the company with an estimated 158 violations for unauthorized exports based on information contained in the voluntary disclosures.

The Department found that the “violations were caused by inadequate corporate oversight and demonstrate systemic and corporate-wide failure to properly determine export control jurisdiction over commodities,” leading to “the unauthorized exports and re-exports of ITAR-controlled electronics, microelectronics, and associated technical data; and caused unauthorized exports of ITAR-controlled microelectronics by domestic purchasers.”

The 158 alleged violations included: 32 unauthorized exports of ITAR-controlled microelectronics and electronics, including to NATO and other allied countries; 96 unauthorized exports of ITAR-controlled microelectronics to China; causing 18 unauthorized exports of defense articles when the company and its subsidiaries “sold ITAR-controlled radiation tolerant multipurpose transceivers to domestic buyers who exported the transceivers without Department authorization,” due to Aeroflex’s incorrect jurisdiction determination; causing 7 unauthorized exports of defense articles to China by exporting “ITAR-controlled microelectronics to foreign entities who then re-exported these defense articles to the People’s Republic of China without Department authorization,” again due to making incorrect jurisdiction determinations; causing an unauthorized export of defense articles when it sold ITAR-controlled integrated circuits to the UAE for end-use on satellite projects in India, knowing the items would be re-exported without Department authorization; and misused the ITAR Canadian exemption 4 times when it exported radiation hardened microelectronics to Canada without Department authorization.

Despite the company-wide failures noted in the Proposed

## RAYTHEON FINED FOR VIOLATING EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS

Aerospace and defense giant Raytheon will fork over \$8 million in penalties and remedial expenditures to the US government for “alleged civil violations of export controls.” An administrative agreement was reached with the Massachusetts-based company following an extensive enforcement review of “hundreds” of alleged violations of the Arms Export Control Act and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR),” according to the US State Department, the agency that initiated the government investigation and drafted the agreement.

The State Department’s Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs determined that “Raytheon’s numerous violations demonstrated a recurring, corporate-wide weakness in maintaining effective ITAR controls.”

Over the course of many years, the agency said, “Raytheon business units have disclosed to the department hundreds of ITAR violations, largely consisting of failures to properly manage department-authorized agreements and temporary import and export authorizations.”

The department said violations included inaccurate tracking, valuation and documentation of temporary exports and imports of controlled hardware; manufacture of such hardware by Raytheon’s foreign partners in excess of approved amounts; and failures to timely obtain and submit required export documents.

Raytheon apparently discovered the violations after an internal audit and reported them to the State Department. The four-year Consent Agreement obligates Raytheon to pay a civil penalty of \$8 million. But, the State Department agreed to suspend payment of half that amount if the funds have or will be used for “Department-approved, pre- and post-Consent Agreement remedial compliance measures.”

The company, the fourth largest defense contractor in the country, generated about \$25 billion in revenue last year and has around 72,000 employees worldwide.



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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of Industry and Security

Arturo Guillermo Nino, Inmate Number 04908-379, FCI  
Beaumont Low, Federal Correctional Institute, P.O. Box  
26020, Beaumont, TX 26020; Order Denying Export  
Privileges

On June 12, 2012, in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Arturo Guillermo Nino ("Nino"), was convicted of violating Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778 (2006 & Supp. IV 2010)) ("AECA"). Specifically, Nino was convicted of intentionally and knowingly conspiring with persons known and unknown to knowingly and willfully export and attempt to export to Mexico a defense article, that is to wit: several AK-47 type rifles and magazines, without having first obtained from the U.S. Department of State a license for such export or written authorization for such export. Nino was sentenced to 72 months of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, a \$1,000 criminal fine and an assessment of \$100. Nino is also listed on the U.S. Department of State Debarred List. Section 766.25 of the Export Administration Regulations ("EAR" or "Regulations") provides, in pertinent part, that "[t]he Director of the Office of Exporter Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Export Enforcement, may deny the export privileges of any person who has been convicted of a violation of the Export Administration Act ("EAA"), the EAR, or any order, license or authorization issued thereunder; any regulation, license, or order issued under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706); 18 U.S.C. 793, 794 or 798; section 4(b) of the Internal Security Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 783(b)), or section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778)." 15 CFR 766.25(a); see also Section 11(h) of the EAA, 50 U.S.C. app. 2410(h). The denial of export privileges under this provision may be for a period of up to 10 years from the date of the conviction. 15 CFR Sec. 766.25(d); see also 50 U.S.C. app. Sec. 2410(h). In addition, Section 750.8 of the Regulations states that the Bureau of Industry and Security's Office of Exporter Services may revoke any Bureau of Industry and Security ("BIS") licenses previously issued in which the person had an interest in at the time of his conviction.

#### **Accordingly, it is hereby Ordered:**

I. Until June 12, 2022, Arturo Guillermo Nino, with a last known address at: Inmate Number 04908-379, FCI Beaumont Low, Federal Correctional Institute, P.O. Box 26020, Beaumont, TX 26020, and when acting for or on behalf of Nino, his representatives, assigns, agents or

(the "Denied Person"), may not, directly or indirectly, participate in any way in any transaction involving any commodity, software or technology (hereinafter collectively referred to as "item") exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the Regulations, including, but not limited to:

**A.** Applying for, obtaining, or using any license, License Exception, or export control document;

**B.** Carrying on negotiations concerning, or ordering, buying, receiving, using, selling, delivering, storing, disposing of, forwarding, transporting, financing, or otherwise servicing in any way, any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the Regulations, or in any other activity subject to the Regulations; or

**C.** Benefitting in any way from any transaction involving any item exported or to be exported from the United States that is subject to the Regulations, or in any other activity subject to the Regulations.

#### **II. No person may, directly or indirectly, do any of the following:**

**A.** Export or reexport to or on behalf of the Denied Person any item subject to the Regulations;

**B.** Take any action that facilitates the acquisition or attempted acquisition by the Denied Person of the ownership, possession, or control of any item subject to the Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States, including financing or other support activities related to a transaction whereby the Denied Person acquires or attempts to acquire such ownership, possession or control;

**C.** Take any action to acquire from or to facilitate the acquisition or attempted acquisition from the Denied Person of any item subject to the Regulations that has been exported from the United States;

**D.** Obtain from the Denied Person in the United States any item subject to the Regulations with knowledge or reason to know that the item will be, or is intended to be, exported from the United States; or

**E.** Engage in any transaction to service any item subject to the

Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States and which is owned, possessed or controlled by the Denied Person, or service any item, of whatever origin, that is owned, possessed or controlled by the Denied Person if such service involves the use of any item subject to the Regulations that has been or will be exported from the United States. For purposes of this paragraph, servicing means installation, maintenance, repair, modification or testing.

**III.** After notice and opportunity for comment as provided in Section 766.23 of the Regulations, any other person, firm, corporation, or business organization related to Nino by affiliation, ownership, control or position of responsibility in the conduct of trade or related services may also be subject to the provisions of this Order if necessary to prevent evasion of the Order.

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IV. This Order does not prohibit any export, reexport, or other transaction subject to the Regulations where the only items involved that are subject to the Regulations are the foreign-produced direct product of U.S.-origin technology.

V. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until June 12, 2022.

VI. In accordance with Part 756 of the Regulations, Nino may file an appeal of this Order with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security. The appeal must be filed within 45 days from the date of this Order and must comply with the provisions of Part 756 of the Regulations.

VII. A copy of this Order shall be delivered to the Nino. This

Order shall be published in the Federal Register.

**Issued this 8th day of August, 2013.**

**Bernard Kritzer, Director, Office of Exporter Services.  
[FR Doc. 2013-19706 Filed 8-13-13; 8:45 am] BILLING  
CODE P**

## Ukraine's Simplified Export Procedures Benefit Global Grain Market

Published: August 16, 2013 - By Worldwide News Ukraine  
KYIV, UKRAINE, AUGUST 16, 2013

New export rules in Ukraine, which include customs procedures on grain export, are a good idea, reckons Ken Ash, Director of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate, as quoted by btb.tv. In his opinion, when governments introduce more predictable, consistent and transparent customs procedures, grain cost decreases. Another factor helping stabilize global grain market this year is the record crop in Ukraine and several other countries, he said.

Following the introduction of the new customs rules, phytosanitary and radiological certification is the only documentation Ukrainian grain exporters are now required to submit, informed sector analyst Ruslan Shvets, Head of AgroNews, in his comment for [latifundist.com](http://latifundist.com). "The government has introduced all the necessary measures for free and unhindered grain export," said Shvets.

New customs procedures in Ukraine were introduced by the 2012 Customs Code. The Code cut customs paperwork and reduced maximum duration time of procedures from 24 to 4 hours. Additionally, it is now possible to pick any customs office to apply to.

New customs procedures helped intensify grain and made it nearly impossible for the customs authorities to engage in corruption, reckoned Shvets. As a result, since the marketing year began grain export increased by 24

Grain logistics prices in the industry may also drop, affecting the profits received by the traders and nation's economy. Notably, in the current marketing year Ukraine plans to export the record 28 million tons of grain.

Ukraine expects to make it to the world's top five grain exporters this year, stated the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Mykola Prysyazhnyuk on August 15, 2013. Ukrainian export ambition is to become the second largest grain exporter in the world following the USA, he said. The Eastern European country aims for a 10 percent share of the global grain market, which is forecast to reach 286 million tons in 2013.

In 2013, Ukraine could become third largest corn exporter, fourth barley exporter, and sixth wheat exporter. Ukraine's grain trade expansion has now reached Asia. Namely, the certification of Ukrainian wheat, barley, and soy by the Chinese authorities is currently under works. Interestingly, in June 2013, Prysyazhnyuk stated that the USA planned to look into the possibility of importing Ukrainian grain.



## Business Leaders, Lawmakers Mixed On How Potential Lift of Cuban Embargo Could Impact Jaxport

**Updated:** August 4, 2013 - 10:44am By Tracy Jones  
Jacksonville used to be one of the gateways for Cuba. Could it be again?

Many lawmakers and business leaders in the state, as well as in Jacksonville, are eager to work with Cuba to bolster the city's economy. But some Jacksonville business leaders say a potential relationship shouldn't be considered until democratic reforms are made in the country.

A recent report by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting found that Tampa lawmakers and business leaders have been courting Cuba for years. Although there hasn't yet been such a proactive approach by Jacksonville, the city and island country have a rich history that some are looking to reignite if the Cuban embargo is lifted.

“Jacksonville was one of the gateways for Cuba before the embargo and, because of our superior connections with the U.S. manufacturing base, as well as our proximity to Cuba, we are hopeful to regain this gateway status if the embargo is lifted,” said JaxPort Interim CEO Roy Schleicher.

Among other Florida ports, JaxPort has the potential to provide warehouses for Cuba for widespread shipping, as Cuba lacks the storage space on the island.

And, as the No. 1 export port for vehicles in the nation, and a major hub for imported vehicles, the port of Jacksonville could reap some of the benefits of one of the points raised in the FCIR report: Cuba’s 1950s-era vehicles. Nothing is in place right now, but new opportunities are always being discussed.

“We are always preparing for potential opportunities to increase volumes and generate jobs and economic activity if such an opportunity becomes available,” Rubin said.

Mayor Alvin Brown, who has cited the port as a source of economic opportunity and growth, declined to comment.

#### **LEADERS HESITANT**

Many Jacksonville residents with ties to Cuba have hesitations about Jacksonville working with the country. Javier Garcia-Bengochea, a neurosurgeon, is one of nearly 8,600 Cubans living in Jacksonville, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In the 1920s, his family bought land and built up a commercial shipping port in the country. Although he is the certified owner by the Office of Foreign Assets Control for the U.S. Treasury, it is now occupied by the Cuban government — much like all other businesses and agencies. The memory of losing money and property to the government is one that should not be forgotten, Garcia-Bengochea said.

“The indisputable fact is that these properties were expropriated by the Castro government without any indemnification, despite provisions in the so-called-laws to do so,” Garcia-Bengochea said.

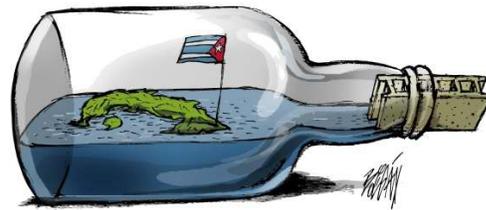
## Why The U.S. should End the Cuban Embargo

By Katrina vanden Heuvel, July 02, 2013

Is there a greater example of utter folly than America’s superannuated policy toward Cuba? During more than 50 years corrupted by covert actions, economic sabotage, travel bans and unending embargo, the United States managed to make Castro and Cuba an international symbol of proud independence. Intent on isolating Cuba, Washington has succeeded only in isolating itself in its own hemisphere. Intent on displacing Fidel Castro, the U.S. enmity only added to his nationalist credentials.

A recent visit reveals a Cuba that is already beginning a new, post-Castro era. That only highlights the inanity of the continuing U.S. embargo, a cruel relic of a Cold War era that is long gone.

Cuba is beginning a new experiment, driven by necessity, of trying to build its own version of market socialism in one country. Just as populist movements in the hemisphere looked to Castro and Cuba for inspiration, now Cuba is learning from its allies as it cautiously seeks to open up its economy. A former minister of the economy spoke of how Cuba is committed to fostering private coops and businesses, and is beginning a push to make more state enterprises make their own way.



"The indisputable fact is that these properties were expropriated by the Castro government without any indemnification, despite provisions in the so-called-laws to do so," Garcia-Bengochea said. "This is often overlooked by those who support lifting the embargo, which began as the response to what amounted to confiscation of American property."

Such expropriations continue today.

"Many of these properties, which provided cash flow at first to the revolution, have been destroyed through neglect and mismanagement," he said. "Americans have no awareness they are trafficking stolen property, which would be intolerable if it was their own."

He supports lifting the embargo, but Garcia-Bengochea suggests it be done in a principled manner. Lawmakers should begin a dialogue with Cuban officials to create a beneficial partnership, rather than just lifting it, he said. If these conversations don't occur, there could be negative consequences for local business leaders who choose to work with Cuba, he said.

Another Jacksonville resident with concerns is immigration lawyer Giselle Carson, who was born in Cuba and grew up during the Castro regime. She said she's seen the control the Cuban government has put on its citizens. She remembers taking tourists around Cuba, but only to the places the government approved for outside visitors.

Carson said she understands why people want the embargo lifted — because an embargo on a country doesn't seem democratic or encourage open enterprise. Carson said those who want a relationship with Cuba need to be well-informed and acknowledge the country's history.

"We have to go with an open eye," Carson said. "What is being sold as sunshine is not necessarily that when you look underneath the surface. If you haven't lived in that regime, it's just very difficult to understand."

#### **POTENTIAL IS THERE**

One of JaxPort's biggest customers, Crowley Maritime Corp., started a service to Cuba more than 12 years ago, some out of Jacksonville, said Jay Brickman, vice president of government services for Crowley.

"If and when the embargo is lifted, the whole dynamics of the trade would change," Brickman said. "I think if the embargo were lifted, it would be positive for everybody, JaxPort included."

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In a recent opinion column in the Times-Union, former City Council member and state legislator Eric Smith agreed that the U.S. should resume trade with Cuba. "Before the Cuban embargo in 1959, more than 90 percent of all shipping between Cuba and the U.S. came through the port of Jacksonville," Smith wrote. "The resumption of trade between the two nations would be a tremendous boost to the economy of Northeast Florida."

Smith, who has visited Cuba twice, wrote that Jacksonville is missing its opportunity to encourage future trade relations with JaxPort.

"The time is now," Smith wrote. "The opportunity is Cuba."

Brickman agreed, and said he's seen progress in Cuba during his visits, noting the new construction of Cuban ports.

"It is definitely in a transitional stage, where the Cuban government recognizes that it needs to change its economic model," Brickman said. "Little by little, progress is being made to improve relations, so ideally the embargo will disappear."

#### **A FUTURE WITH CUBA**

Cuba imports about 60 percent of its food requirements and, as of 2012, the U.S. was Cuba's most important supplier of imported food and agricultural products, said William Messina, an agricultural economist at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. "Cuba has tremendous agricultural productive potential," Messina said, "but present conditions don't allow them to capitalize on this potential, at least for now."

Cuba could also provide other resources to JaxPort, said Havana native Jorge Brunet-Garcia, president of Jacksonville advertising agency Brunet-Garcia.

"Once travel restrictions are eased, a cruise ship terminal in Jacksonville's port with Cuba as a destination would be very attractive to many travelers from the Mid-Eastern states," Brunet-Garcia said.

"Because of the ease of logistics in Jacksonville, JaxPort probably has much to gain."

Although Jacksonville and its port may be geographically primed for a relationship with Cuba, an aggressive approach would be premature, said Daniel Davis, president of the Jacksonville Chamber and a state representative who chairs the Transportation, Highway and Safety Subcommittee.

"The introduction of capitalism is the key to establishing freedom for the Cuban people," said Davis. "However, until their government begins the process of real economic reform, we cannot bolster an oppressive regime with an influx of American money."

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## Cairo Embassy Closes

CAIRO, Aug. 15 (UPI) -- The U.S. State Department closed its embassy in Cairo Thursday and advised U.S. citizens to avoid areas "where large gatherings may occur."

The embassy closing and travel warning came as the death toll from this week's clashes between police and demonstrators in Egypt reached topped 600, and supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi stormed and set fire to the offices of the governor of Giza.

U.S. President [Barack Obama](#) announced Washington has canceled next month's joint U.S.-Egyptian military exercise, saying traditional cooperation with Egypt "cannot continue as usual."

Obama chastised the government for the crackdown on protests and extended condolences to the victims' families.

"The United States strongly condemns the steps that have been taken by Egypt's interim government and security forces," he said.

The State Department said routine consular services would be suspended for the day.

"As a matter of general practice, U.S. citizens should avoid areas where large gatherings may occur," the department said. "Even demonstrations or events intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens in Egypt are urged to monitor local news reports and to plan their activities accordingly."

Read more:

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2013/08/15/US-closes-embassy-in-Cairo-issues-safety-warning-to-citizens/UPI-30491376597581/#ixzz2c9izXD12](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2013/08/15/US-closes-embassy-in-Cairo-issues-safety-warning-to-citizens/UPI-30491376597581/#ixzz2c9izXD12)

(Continued from Page 7...)

This month, 100 state-run produce markets and 26 other establishments are scheduled to become private cooperatives. The government says many more establishments will follow, beginning in 2014, as an alternative to small and medium-size state businesses in retail and food services, transportation, light manufacturing and construction, among other sectors.

Despite the embargo, José Martí International Airport displays the new vitality. Hundreds of Cuban Americans fly into see relatives, bringing everything from flat-screen TVs to consumer basics. Since President Obama lifted restrictions on family visits in 2009, remittances and material support from Cuban Americans play a growing role in the microeconomy of the island.

Whereas in the 1990s, Havana was willing to permit only limited private enterprise as an emergency measure, government officials now speculate openly about aiming toward 50 percent of Cuba's GDP in private hands within five years. Of course, an expanding small business sector won't resolve some central issues facing the island: access to large-scale credit and investment and the need to boost exports and address anemic productivity, not to mention the demands of an aging population.

In Havana, there is more talk about Brazil's investment in renovating Mariel Harbor than about Edward Snowden. Brazilian conglomerate Odebrecht had to resist threats by Florida's state government to cut off any state contracts if it invested in Cuba. This enormous deep-water port is designed to handle trade with the United States and beyond in a post-embargo world, if the embargo is ever ended.

Cuba's official media remains sclerotic, though there are spirited debates in a few online outlets. But the government appears to understand that the explosion of social media will transform communications and politics, and however tentatively, realizes it has little choice but to change if it is to engage a younger generation.

It is long past time for the United States to end the embargo and influence Cuba, rather than threaten it. Ironically, as a result of a new Cuban migration law lifting more than 50 years of restrictions on the ability of its citizens to travel freely abroad, taking effect this year, Cubans are now freer to travel to the United States than Americans are to Cuba. The president can't end the travel ban without Congressional approval, but as Peter Kornbluh explained in a recent piece in The Nation, he can take several steps that would transform our policy.

Obama should start by removing Cuba from the State Department's list of nations that support terrorism, terminating the economic and commercial sanctions that come with that designation. The Treasury could stop fining international banks for doing business with Cuba, a practice that impedes the country's slow opening to private enterprise. At the same time, the president could expand licensing for travel to Cuba, making it easier for entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors and others to travel and explore commercial possibilities. The Cold War "Cuban Democracy and Contingency Planning Program," designed for "regime change," should be reconfigured to a people-to-people exchange program that would actually have some influence.

