

Russia announces a second oil shipment to Cuba



Featured image: Russia is preparing another oil shipment to Cuba (Source: [kees torn/Commons/CC-BY-SA 2.0](#))

Russia is preparing a second oil shipment to Cuba after a tanker carrying Russian crude oil arrived on the Caribbean island earlier this week for the first time in three months. Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev announced this on Thursday at an energy forum in the city of Kazan.

“A ship from the Russian Federation has broken through the blockade. A second ship is now being loaded,” Tsivilev told Russian journalists. “We will not leave the Cubans to face their difficulties alone.” [According to](#) the news agency *EFE*, the decision was made following a meeting with Cuban representatives in Saint Petersburg.

On Tuesday, the oil tanker “Anatoli Kolodkin”—sanctioned by the U.S. and the EU—reached the port of Matanzas with approximately 700,000 barrels of crude oil on board. It was the first oil shipment since late January, when the U.S. imposed an energy blockade against Cuba in the wake of the abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, which violated international law. Since then, countries supplying oil to the socialist Caribbean nation have faced the threat of U.S. sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump had previously stated on Sunday that he did not intend to take any action against the Russian tanker’s passage. Speaking to journalists, he downplayed the delivery: “That doesn’t bother me. They have a bad regime, a bad and corrupt leadership, and whether an oil tanker reaches them or not doesn’t matter,” Trump said.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry, however, viewed the shipment as vital aid: “This valuable support comes amid the energy blockade imposed by the United States, which is attempting to suffocate the Cuban people,” the ministry stated. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel [thanked](#) his Russian counterpart. Work is currently underway on the “unloading, processing,

distribution, and rational use” of the first shipment, “which, while insufficient given the acute shortage, will gradually ease the situation in the coming weeks.” ([Cubaheute](#))