



**United States Department of State**  
*Assistant Secretary of State*  
*Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs*  
*Washington, D.C. 20520-6258*

January 14, 2010

Honorable Luis G. Fortuño  
Governor of Puerto Rico  
PO Box 9020082  
San Juan, PR 00902-0082

RE: XXI Central American and Caribbean Sports Games, Mayagüez 2010

Dear Governor Fortuño:

The Department has met on several occasions since October 2009 with the Government of Puerto Rico to help facilitate the participation of all eligible countries in the XXI Central American and Caribbean Sports Games in Mayagüez. We were pleased to meet with Representative Pierluisi, the Mayor of Mayagüez and other organizers for the Games in separate meetings on January 12, 2010, to discuss the upcoming Mayagüez Games and the participation of Cuban athletes and accompanying delegation in this international athletic event.

It is our understanding that Cuban sports officials have raised various concerns regarding the participation of Cuban athletes in the Games. The Department of State has raised this issue with the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. and with the Cuban Foreign Ministry in Havana on several occasions, most recently in a meeting with the Chief of Mission of the Cuban Interests Section on January 12. We have made clear to Cuban officials that the United States does not seek to impede the participation of Cuban athletes and the accompanying delegation in the Games. We invited the Cuban government to share with us any specific concerns. As of this date, the Cuban government has not provided us with an official response regarding this matter.

As we stated in our meetings with Cuban officials, the timely submission of visa applications for participants in the Games is very important to ensure that they can be processed in a timely manner, consistent with all applicable U.S. laws and

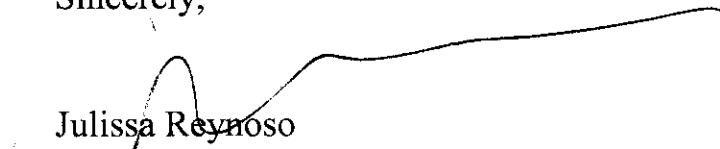
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regulations, so that Cuban athletes and the accompanying delegation will be able to participate. Similarly, any issues involving licensing for travel or transactions with Cuban entities should be addressed well in advance and in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. We worked in the past with the Cuban government and event organizers to process visa applications and worked through the necessary licensing procedures to ensure that Cuban teams were able to participate in athletic competitions in the United States such as the 2009 World Baseball Classic. We remain willing to provide such assistance again.

The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, has appointed a contact person who will serve as a liaison with the Mayagüez 2010 Organizing Committee and the Puerto Rico Government to work on the visa application process.

We hope this information is helpful to you and please feel free to contact us on this or any other matter of concern.

Sincerely,



Julissa Reynoso  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Western Hemisphere Affairs

CC:

Jose Guillermo Rodriguez  
Mayor of Mayagüez

Dr. David Bernier  
President  
Puerto Rico Olympic Committee

Felipe Pérez Grajales  
President  
Organizing Committee  
XXI Central American and Caribbean Sports Games  
Mayagüez 2010

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