



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 20, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

In a hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives on March 10th of 2021, you committed to me that you would “consult with the Cuban-American exile community” before engaging in any conversations with the Castro Regime. Tomorrow’s planned conversation between Carlos Fernández de Cossío and members of the Biden Administration represents a complete failure to uphold your commitment.

Not only was the Cuban-American exile community not consulted, Congress was blindsided with the news of this initiative only three days before the talks were planned. If the Cuba policy of this Administration were guided by good faith, you would have consulted with members of the Cuban-American exile community weeks ago to ask whether this was a good idea and in the interest of Cuban-Americans, South Florida and the United States of America. Consulting only with Cuban-American members of your own party is not sufficient. Never once have you consulted with me and my Republican colleagues in Congress about Cuba policy.

As such, I request that you invite me to the meeting so that I can represent the concerns of my constituents in these talks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. Elvira Salazar", written over a horizontal line.

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress