

Chronicle on Cuba
Summary of News Items Reported on Cuba
(September 2001 to December 2002)

This web resource is a chronological summary, by key subject category, of select news items related to Cuba reported from September 2001 to December 2002. More information on each news item, as well as the corresponding reference source, can be obtained by going to the relevant issue of FOCAL's Chronicle on Cuba (as indicated in parenthesis following each news item).

The chronologies are available by the following subject categories:

Domestic Affairs

- Civil Society
- Defections
- Drugs
- Education, Culture
- Internal Politics
- Public Health

Economy

- Agriculture
- Euro
- Fishery
- Foreign Involvement
- General Indicators
- Natural Disasters
- Oil
- Sugar
- Tobacco
- Tourism

Exile Community

- Policy Towards Internal Opposition
- US-Cuba Conflict

Security

- Ana Belén Montes
- International Treaties
- Military Relations
- Russian Radar Station

Foreign Relations

- ACP Group

- Africa
- Arab States
- Asia
- Canada (Cooperation, Defections, Diplomatic Statements and Other News Items, Economic Involvement)
- Caribbean
- European Union (EU)
- Ibero-American Summits
- Latin America (Argentina, Central America, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Latin America Resolution on Human Rights, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela)
- Russia
- UN General Assembly
- UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva

Terrorism

- International Treaties
- September 11 and US War Against Terror
- US Accusations

US-Cuba Relations

- Commerce
- Diplomatic Activities and Statements
- Embargo, Travel Ban
- Jimmy Carter's Visit
- The Wasp Net
- US Non-Government Relations with Cuba

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Civil Society

- The Cuban dissident group Corriente Socialista Democrática Cubana (CSDC) decides to postpone its national conference due to obstacles from Cuban authorities. (January 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- The Varela Project, a petition that calls for a referendum under the terms of the Cuban Constitution, is submitted to the Cuban National Assembly. (May 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuban dissident Osvaldo Payá Sardiñas is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- In response to the Varela Project, Fidel Castro leads hundreds of thousands of people in a march in support of a constitutional amendment declaring Cuba's socialist state "untouchable." (June 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- After three days-sessions, the Cuban National Assembly votes to amend the country's constitution, making its socialist system of government "irrevocable." (June 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- It is reported that the number of Cubans behind bars for political reasons rose by 20 to 230 people in the first half of 2002. (July 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- More than fifty dissident organizations join together to form the Assembly to Promote Civil Society (Asamblea para Promover la Sociedad Civil). (October 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuban dissident organizations release a document signed All United (Todos Unidos), to be sent to the Heads of State and Government that will meet for the 12th Ibero American Summit. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban dissident Oscar Elías Biscet, who had been freed from prison, is detained again. (December 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- A list of 36 proposed reforms is announced by Vladimiro Roca, on behalf of the opposition group Everyone United (Todos Unidos). (December 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- The European Union awards Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá with its top human rights prize, the 2002 Sakharov Award. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban Independent Journalists Movement launches the bi-monthly magazine De Cuba. (December 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- It is reported that the number of self-employed workers in Cuba keeps sliding. (December 2002, Domestic Affairs)

Defections

- Two hundred and forty nine Cuban asylum-seekers arrive in Madrid's international airport, on separate flights. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- During Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada, a group of young Cuban Catholics defect in Toronto. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Alcibíades Hidalgo Basulto, former aide to Raúl Castro, flees the island to the US on a boat. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- José Ariel Contreras, the star of the Cuban national team pitching staff, defects in México. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- The Cuban government reports that during 2002, 596 illegal Cuban migrants have been sent back to Cuba by the US Coast Guard. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A Cuban stowaway arrives at Montreal airport hidden in the landing gear of a plane. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Drugs

- The Cuban Attorney General states that the island has a drug problem spawned by tourism and vows to crack down on traffickers. (December 2002, Domestic Affairs)

Education, Culture

- According to a study by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Cuba leads Latin America in primary education. (December 2001, Domestic Affairs)
- The Havana International Book Fair opens at the Cabaña Fortress in Havana. (February 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- An educational television channel is inaugurated. (May 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuban authorities begin an intense program aimed at renovating schools. In the city of Havana, around 200 schools are refurbished. (July 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Fidel Castro inaugurates the 18th International Ballet Festival of Havana. (October 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuba-related political clashes take place at the 17th Guadalajara International Book between a group of eminent intellectuals and the Cuban official delegation. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Internal Politics

- In response to the Varela Project, Fidel Castro leads hundreds of thousands of people in a march in support of a constitutional amendment declaring Cuba's socialist state "untouchable." (June 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- After three days-sessions, the Cuban National Assembly votes to amend the country's constitution, making its socialist system of government "irrevocable". (June 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- It is reported that former foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, has been expelled from the Cuban Communist Party. (August 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuban voters choose municipal council members in local elections. (October 2002, Domestic Affairs) Declaring that Cuba's athletes would not have been safe at the Central American and Caribbean Games in El Salvador, Fidel Castro inaugurates his island's own national Olympics. (November 2002, Domestic Affairs)

Public Health

- In its annual report on the State of the World's Children, the United Nations Children's Fund places Cuba among the top ten countries with the lowest infant mortality rate. (February)

- Dengue fever kills two people and strikes hundreds in Havana, despite an emergency campaign to contain the worst outbreak of the disease in Cuba in two decades. (February)
- Cuban researchers report notable success with a biotech drug that attacks advanced cancer of the head and neck regions. (March) Fidel Castro promises "profound attention" in the near future to the ailing health sector. (August)

ECONOMY

Agriculture

- Cuba's parliament changes regulations governing private-farm cooperatives and small-family farms. (November 2002, Economy)

Euro

- The Euro begins to circulate at Varadero. (May 2002, Economy)

Fishery

- The Cuban Fisheries Ministry reports that total catch dropped by about 10% to 31 000 tons. (February 2002, Economy)

Foreign Involvement

- Mexico and Cuba agree to restructure the island's 380 million dollar debt. (March 2002, Economy)
- It is reported that investors of the European Union make up most of the economic associations on the island. (April 2002, Economy)
- Italy extends a credit of 17.5 million Euros to Cuba (about US\$17 million) for the rehabilitation of the island's irrigation systems and food programs. (May 2002, Economy)
- Visa Gold of Toronto is the first of five companies working in partnership with the Cuban government to find and excavate some of the hundreds of shipwrecks of historical and commercial value believed to dot the ocean floor around the island. (May 2002, Economy)
- German auto giant, Mercedes-Benz, opens a new marketing office in the central Cuban province of Cienfuegos. (June 2002, Economy)
- French ambassador to Havana affirms that Cuba is a significant trading partner for his country. (August 2002, Economy)
- Canadian companies express concern that US food and agricultural products are exported to Cuba. (September 2002, Economy)
- It is reported that Spanish exports to Cuba are down 18.1 per cent at 205.5m euros during the first five months of 2002, due to the slowdown of the Cuban and the global economy and US exports to Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)
- Toronto-based Sherritt International's energy subsidiary Sheritt Power announces the 75MW expansion of its 98MW Varadero thermoelectric plant in Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)
- According to a Canadian diplomat, Cuba has significantly reduced imports from key trading partners such as Spain and Canada, due to dwindling hard currency

- revenues and the first US food sales to the island in four decades. (October 2002, Economy)
- Pebercan finishes a successful digging in the Canasí 8 well in Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)
- Cuban Central Bank (BCC) Minister-President Francisco Soberón and his Chinese counterpart Dai Xiaglong hold intensive talks on financial topics in Beijing. (October 2002, Economy)
- The Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV) is officially open with nearly 1000 exhibitors from 58 nations attending the show. (November 2002, Economy)

General Indicators

- Press agencies are reporting of a second “special period” in Cuba. (October 2001, Economy)
- It is reported that Cuba has a foreign debt of approximately US \$40 billion, making it one of the most indebted countries in the world. (March 2002, Economy)
- The problem of unemployment in the City of Havana is under debate by local authorities. (May 2002, Economy)
- The Cuban Ministry of Economy and Planning announces that prices on certain products have been increased. (June 2002, Economy)
- Cuban economy authorities inform the population that a solution to public transport problems will not be possible in the short term. (October 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Cuba's Economy Minister says the economy expanded only 1.1 percent in 2002. (December 2002, Economy)

Natural Disasters

- Hurricane Michelle causes serious damages in agriculture, buildings, electricity, and communications. (November 2001, Economy)
- Roads are cut off, crops destroyed and some houses damaged, due to heavy rain. (June 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Hurricane Isidore destroys 1,573 buildings and inflicts other serious damage on agriculture. (September 2002, Economy)
- Hurricane Lili damages buildings, farmland, communications, and destroys thousands of homes and tobacco drying sheds. (October 2002, Economy)

Oil

- The Drilling and Oil Extraction Company (Empresa de Perforación y Extracción de Petróleo) operating in western Cuba produces one million tonnes of crude oil. (November 2001, Economy)
- It is reported that the rise in oil prices places a major burden on the Cuban state, which ends up paying USD 50 million per year every time the oil price goes up a dollar. (April 2002, Economy)
- State-owned oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (PDV) stops its contractual deliveries of crude and oil products to Cuba due to the Caribbean island's reported US\$63 million in outstanding debt. (May 2002, Economy)

- Venezuela's supreme court opens an investigation into a preferential oil sales agreement with Cuba that has been widely criticized by political foes of President Hugo Chavez. (August 2002, Economy)
- The first shipment of Venezuelan crude oil to Cuba under preferential financial terms departs for the Caribbean island. (September 2002, Economy)
- All of Cuba's energy needs will be met by the island nation's domestic petroleum production by the beginning of next year, Vice President Carlos Lage announces. (September 2002, Economy)
- It is reported that the high price of oil on the world market costs over US\$ 100 million more than Cuba planned for 2002. (October 2002, Economy)
- Canadian Pebercan finishes a successful digging in the Canasí 8 well in Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)
- Cuba is stepping up its efforts to explore for deep-water oil in the Gulf of Mexico. (November 2002, Economy)
- Cuba prepares "back-up plans" to deal with a possible energy crisis. (December 2002, Economy)
- Carlos Lage, Cuban secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, announces that 2002's oil production is higher than that produced in any year for 10 years. (December 2002, Economy)

Sugar

- Cuba's 2001-2002 sugar harvest yields more than 3.6 million metric tons, but fetches \$120 million less because of low prices for the commodity worldwide. (June 2002, Economy)
- Cuba reduces the capacity of its sugar industry by 50%, and cuts back land dedicated to raw-sugar production by as much as 60%. (June 2002, Economy)
- The opening of two new entities, the International Sugar Company Inc. (Compañía Azucarera Internacional S.A.) and the Sugar Financial Corporation Inc. (Corporación Financiera Azucarera S.A.) are officially announced. (June 2002, Economy)
- Fidel Castro says at least 90,000 former sugar workers will return to school to be trained for new jobs amid a vast restructuring of the island nation's sugar industry. (September 2002, Economy)

Tobacco

- Severely hurt by hurricanes, it is reported that Cuba's world-famous tobacco industry can expect supply shortages next year. (October 2002, Economy)

Tourism

- Fidel Castro announces that the September 11 events will have negative consequences for the tourism industry and predicts a growth of only 3% to 6%. (November, 2001)
- It is reported that Canada is the main source of tourists to Cuba. (February 2002, Economy)
- While acknowledging that the last 18 months have been difficult for the tourism industry, Cuban Tourism Minister is optimistic for the coming year. (September 2002, Economy)

EXILE COMMUNITY

Policy Towards Internal Opposition

- The Miami based Directorio Democrático Cubano launches a campaign for greater support of civil resistance in Cuba. (March 2001, Exile Community)
- The leader of the Cuban American National Foundation says it has sent about US\$1 million in cash, computers and other aid to dissidents and families in Cuba. (July 2001, Exile Community)
- The organisation Mesa de Reflexión en el Exterior (MRE), holds a workshop on the Draft Charter on Fundamental Rights and Responsibilities of Cubans (Anteproyecto Carta de Derechos y Deberes Fundamentales de los Cubanos) which is being promoted on the island by the Mesa de Reflexión de la Oposición Moderada (MROM). (October 2001, Exile Community)
- The Cuban American National Foundation expresses support of the launching of the dissident coalition Assembly to Promote Civil Society. (October 2001, Exile Community)
- 68% of Cuban exile groups in South Florida believe the Varela Project is a good idea, while 23% think the opposite. (December 2001, Exile Community)

US-Cuba Conflict

- A survey by among 837 Miami-Dade County residents indicates that most Cuban exiles believe that US policy toward Cuba has failed. (December 2001, Exile Community)
- The Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) expresses profound disappointment with the results of votes on various amendments to ease restrictions on Cuba's regime. (July 2002, Exile Community)

FOREIGN RELATIONS

ACP Group

- The Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Group (ACP) calls on the European Union (EU) to allow Cuba to enter into the ACP-UE Partnership Agreement, and to sign the Cotonou Agreement. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- The ACP group has asked the European Union (EU) to grant Cuba special guest status at the session of the joint ministerial council, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban Minister of Government, representing his country as special observer at an ACP meeting, states that Cuba's social, economic and political system is not negotiable. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union (EU) calls on Cuba to comply with its requirements in order to benefit from the EU assistance for developing countries. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The European Union rejects calls to add Cuba to the Cotonou agreement. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- During a Caribbean Summit in Havana, Fidel Castro announces that Cuba will renew its request to join the Cotonou Agreement. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Africa

Official visits, and/or cooperation agreements

- South Africa (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Benin (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Uganda (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Zimbabwe (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Botswana (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Lesotho (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Zambia (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Tonga (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Kenya (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Angola (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mozambique (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Equatorial Guinea (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Namibia (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Arab States

Official visits, and/or cooperation agreements

- Saharawi Democratic Arab Republic (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Iran (March 2002, Foreign Affairs) Y
- emen (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- United Arab Emirates (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Syria (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Qatar (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Other News Items

- The state of Qatar donates \$1 million USdollars in cash to help the island recover in the wake of Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the Israeli "aggression being committed against the heroic Palestinian people and their authorities." (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban National Assembly President says that sanctions imposed by the US on Iran and Cuba have resulted in closer relations between the two countries. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- In a congratulatory note to his Iraqi counterpart, Saddam Hussein, on the occasion of the 34th anniversary since the Baas party took power in Iraq, Fidel Castro condemns "the cruel US policy towards our friendly people of Iraq." (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Pérez Roque tells the UN General Assembly that his country opposes a new military action against Iraq. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Asia

Official visits, and/or cooperation agreements

- North Korea (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Viet Nam (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- East Timor (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- China (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Laos (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Other news Items

- Fidel Castro congratulates North Korea's supremo Kim Jong-II on his 60th birthday. (February)
- A Chinese military delegation headed by the Political Commissioner of the General Department of the Popular Liberation Army is on a visit to Cuba. (April 2002, Security)
- Vietnam Vice-Minister of Defence, Phuong Quang Thanh, visits the island. (May 2002, Security)
- Cuba wishes to increase its military relations with China, according to statements made in Beijing by the Director of the Political Department General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba. (July 2002, Security)

Canada

Cooperation

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) donates CAN\$500,000 dollars in aid to Cuba for the victims of Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Health Partners International of Canada announces its latest contribution in an ongoing humanitarian medical aid program to the people of Cuba. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Members of the Ernesto Che Guevara Solidarity Brigade with Cuba organize a campaign in Canada to promote information on the five Cubans imprisoned in the US. (August 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Canadian company mapping Cuba's ocean bottom says that much more study is needed before arriving to the conclusion that the discovery of massive stones in Cuba's territorial waters is the fabled Atlantis. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provides CAN\$75,000 in emergency assistance of Cuban victims of hurricanes Isidore and Lili. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Canadian Minister for International Cooperation announces a CAN \$2.9 million contribution over three years to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology to help train industrial workers in Cuba. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Len Good, President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), leads a delegation visiting Havana. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs) Cuba and Canada sign an agreement to cooperate on a project to strengthen the Caribbean island's forestry service on the local, provincial and national levels. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Defections

- During Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada, a group of young Cuban Catholics defect in Toronto. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Cuban stowaway arrives at Montreal airport hidden in the landing gear of a plane. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Diplomatic Statements and Other News Items

- The government of the United States offers Cuba humanitarian assistance in the wake of Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001)
- A US federal jury finds a Canadian businessman guilty of violating the US embargo against Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Former Presidents Eduardo Frei, Patricio Aylwin, Ernesto Samper, Felipe González, the Spanish and French Foreign Ministers, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, and the OAS Secretary General condemn Castro's disclosure of a private exchange with his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Canada's Prime Minister states that his country's relations with Cuba have been normal, which is one of the main differences between Canada's and US's policies. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Canadian couple arrived in Havana to search for their son who disappeared off a boat, along with a friend, close to Cuban shores. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- In reference to US policy towards Cuba, Canadian Prime Minister says the US should not exercise its power to the point of humiliation for the others. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomes Cuba's announcement that it would accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Canadian secretary of state for Latin America, Africa and La Francophonie has meetings with senior government officials and takes part in the International Fair of Havana. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Economic Involvement

- It is reported that Canada is the main source of tourists to Cuba. (February 2002, Economy)
- International Barytex Resources Ltd. (Barytex) and Northern Orion Exploration Ltd. (Northern Orion) announce that a financing proposal is being negotiated to establish a copper mine at the Mantua Project in western Pinar del Río province. (April 2002, Economy)
- Visa Gold of Toronto is the first of five companies working in partnership with the Cuban government to find and excavate some of the hundreds of shipwrecks of historical and commercial value believed to dot the ocean floor around the island. (May 2002, Economy)
- Montreal-based oil exploration and production company Pebercan announces an oil find at its Canasi 6 well in Cuba. (June 2002, Economy)
- Leisure Canada is accelerating a development plan for its Monte Barreto project, the last waterfront hotel to be constructed in the Miramar District. (June) A Canadian tour operator announces it will introduce air service between Florida and Havana. (August 2002, Economy)
- Canadian independent Pebercan has said its Canasi-7 developmental well onshore in Cuba's Block 7 has been successful. (August 2002, Economy)
- Canadian companies express concern that US food and agricultural products are exported to Cuba. (September 2002, Economy)

- Toronto-based Sherritt International's energy subsidiary Sheritt Power announces the 75MW expansion of its 98MW Varadero thermoelectric plant in Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)
- According to a Canadian diplomat, Cuba has significantly reduced imports from key trading partners such as Spain and Canada, due to dwindling hard currency revenues and the first US food sales to the island in four decades. (October 2002, Economy)
- Pebercan finishes a successful digging in the Canasí 8 well in Cuba. (October 2002, Economy)

Caribbean

Official visits, and/or cooperation agreements

- Grenada (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Haiti (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Dominican Republic (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Trinidad and Tobago (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Jamaica (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Belize (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Saint Lucia (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Other News Items

- Fidel Castro signs an Association of Caribbean States (ACS) summit declaration that supports Free Trade Area of the Americas. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Belize rejects a US proposal to convert a Voice of America relay station to beam US-operated Radio Martí signals toward Cuba. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba expands its air travel ties with Nassau and Santo Domingo. (August 2002, Economy and Foreign Affairs)
- Grenada accepts the first Cuban ambassador to this Caribbean island in nearly two decades. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as representatives from Haiti, Belize, Antigua y Barbuda and Suriname, meet in Havana to celebrate 30 years of relations between Cuba and CARICOM. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

European Union (EU)

- A EU delegation arrives in Havana to reopen political consultations with the island. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- EU foreign ministers decide to maintain their "common position" on Cuba. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) announces that the UE will grant half a million euros in aid to Cuba for the damages caused by hurricane Michelle. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- The European Commission expresses its satisfaction with the US President's decision to waive for another six months the provisions of the Helms-Burton Act. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- After a Cuban request, EU Development Commissioner and Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister meet in Brussels. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister meets in Athens with EU associate foreign minister. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro does not attend the II European Union-Latin American and the Caribbean Summit in Madrid. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- EU foreign ministers reiterate their "common position" on Cuba. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union (EU) calls on Cuba to comply with its requirements in order to benefit from the EU assistance for developing countries. (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The European Union rejects calls to add Cuba to the Cotonou agreement. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The official Cuban media criticizes the EU for being subservient to US interests. (August 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The EU and Cuba hold their second political dialogue in Copenhagen. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban government states that if the EU wishes to maintain trade relations with Cuba it must stop supporting the resolution on Cuba passed by the UN Commission on Human Rights. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- EU foreign ministers reiterate their "common position" on Cuba. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The president of Cuba's National Assembly rejects a call from the EU for democratic reforms on the island. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The European Union awards Cuban dissident Oswaldo Payá with its top human rights prize, the 2002 Sakharov Award. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Ibero-American Summits

- Fidel Castro sends a letter to the President of Peru, saying he would not be able to attend the 11th Ibero American Summit in Lima after Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001)
- Cuban dissident organizations release a document signed All United (Todos Unidos), to be sent to the Heads of State and Government that will meet for the 12th Ibero American Summit. (November)
- Cuban exiles from Miami join forces with dissidents on the island in an effort to shine an unfavorable spotlight on Cuba during the 12th Ibero-American summit. (Exile Community, November)
- Fidel Castro does not attend the 12th Ibero-American Summit. (November)

Latin America

Argentina

- The Cuban government releases an official declaration on the situation in Argentina in which it blames liberal policies for the current crisis. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Argentina's President denies allegations that the US pressured his government to vote against Cuba in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Central America

- Cuba and Honduras sign an agreement extending the stay of Cuban doctors in that country. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba and Guatemala sign an agreement extending the stay of 459 Cuban doctors in that country. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- After 41 years, the Honduran Government re-establishes diplomatic relations with Cuba. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Salvadorian President emphasizes his country will not re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Nicaraguan president states that his government will keep relations with Cuba unchanged, that is, at the level of commercial attachés. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Panamanian Foreign Minister and his Cuban counterpart meet in Panama to review the two countries' bilateral political and diplomatic relations. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban government sends a team of entomologists and epidemiologists to Honduras to aid local authorities in the fight against dengue fever. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Guatemalan Foreign Vice-Minister and the Cuban Ambassador to that country sign an agreement regarding penal sentences on behalf of their respective countries. (August 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- In a live broadcast in Havana, Honduran Health Minister expresses gratitude to the Cuban government for the Island's medical aid to fight dengue in his country. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Cuban medical brigade leaves for Nicaragua to support the emergency program against dengue in that country. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The head of Cuba's medical brigades in Tegucigalpa becomes the island nation's first ambassador to Honduras in more than 40 years. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Chile

- Government officials from Chile and Cuba meet in Santiago to examine their bilateral relations. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Chile asks Cuba for information on a former Chilean rebel who lived in the island. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban government refutes its alleged links with Chilean rebel Mauricio Hernández Norambuena. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Chilean President Ricardo Lagos complains that Cuba has not been forthcoming with information on the former Chilean rebel that lived on the island. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Following their visit to Cuba, two Chilean Senators conclude that Cuban officials had nothing to do with the Mauricio Hernández Norambuena affair. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Colombia

- Colombia's government peace commissioner meets with representatives of the Rebel National Liberation Army (ELN), in Cuba, in preparation for the peace talks between the government and the rebel group. (February 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister indicates in Bogotá that Havana is willing to cooperate in the event of a peace process between the government of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and the guerillas. (August 2002, Terrorism)

Ecuador

- At the invitation of Fidel Castro, Gustavo Noboa Bejarano, president of Ecuador, travels to Havana with a top-level delegation. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro arrives in Ecuador's capital to attend the inauguration ceremony for an art museum by the late artist Oswaldo Guayasamín. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Latin America Resolution on Human Rights

- The Cuban Foreign Minister condemns the US efforts among Latin American governments to stage an anti-Cuban resolution in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Argentina's President denies allegations that the US pressured his government to vote against Cuba. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs initiates an international tour to offset an unfavourable vote against Cuba during the meeting of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Peru pushes for a Latin American mechanism that can look into the situation of human rights in Cuba in coordination with Cuban authorities. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Any Latin American country that gives in to US pressure to sponsor a resolution condemning Cuba's human rights record will be a "Judas," the Cuban foreign minister says. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Member countries of the UN Commission on Human Rights are drafting a condemnatory resolution against Cuba that asserts that Fidel Castro's government has made unsatisfactory progress with regards to human rights. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Mexican abstention at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva would be regarded as positive and consistent with traditional Mexican foreign policy, says Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister, Felipe Pérez Roque. (April 2002, Foreign Relations)
- Mexico says that it would support a UN resolution censuring Cuba for its human rights record. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister strongly criticizes the position of the presidents of Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay, who have announced that their countries will support a condemnatory resolution against Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Uruguayan Foreign Affairs Minister Didier Opertti rejects his Cuban counterpart's "offensive" remarks. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- The issue of human rights in Cuba, although not included in the agenda, is discussed during the Río Group Summit in Costa Rica. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba condemns the resolution sponsored by a group of Latin American countries in Geneva. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Peruvian Prime Minister Roberto Dañino describes as "unacceptable" and "impertinent" the Cuban government's statements following the Peruvian endorsement of a UN draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The UN's main human rights body backs a Latin American call for Cuba to improve its rights record. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba calls the vote against the island at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva a "mockery" and an "insult", insisting that its promoters "lack the moral authority" to sponsor such a condemnation. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro insults the president of Uruguay calling him a "stale and abject Judas" for its sponsorship of the UN Human Rights Commission resolution against Cuba. (April)
- Uruguay breaks diplomatic ties with Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- During his May Day speech, Fidel Castro lambastes those countries that backed a UN resolution censuring his government's human rights record, and calls them "a bunch of trash". (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban foreign ministry blames the Uruguayan President for the political strife that led to the break down of diplomatic relations. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro refers to the Uruguayan President as "subservient" and "weeping". (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Mexico

- Mexican Foreign Minister, Jorge Castañeda, announces in Lima President Fox's visit to the island in 2002. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- More than 130 Mexican legislators arrive in Cuba for a visit. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- President Vicente Fox of Mexico meets with Fidel Castro in Havana. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Prior to his return to Mexico, President Vicente Fox meets with a group of Cuban dissidents in the Mexican embassy in Havana. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A busload of Cuban citizens crashes through a gate at the Mexican embassy with the intention of seeking asylum. About a dozen Cubans make it into the compound. (February 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- The Cuban government blames Radio Marti for broadcasting statements by Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castañeda, which it said were "cynically manipulated" into "an open invitation to occupy the embassy". (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Mexican Foreign Secretary, Jorge Castañeda, says that the occupation of the Mexican Embassy in Havana was a "small provocation" by radical Cuban groups based in Miami. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Radio Marti officials deny that they manipulated Jorge Castañeda's statements into an invitation to occupy the Mexican Embassy in Havana. (February 2002, Exile Community)

- Cuban authorities peacefully remove 21 young men occupying the Mexican Embassy after they repeatedly refused to leave on their own. (March 2002, Domestic Affairs)
- Mexican Foreign Minister, Jorge Castañeda's statements regarding the Mexican embassy incidents in Havana are strongly criticized on Cuban TV. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- In a live television appearance, Fidel Castro says the occupation of Mexico's embassy by 21 young men did not harm relations between the two nations. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- According to Mexican President Vicente Fox, relations between Cuba and Mexico remain "excellent". (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexico and Cuba agree to restructure the island's 380 million dollar debt. (March 2002, Economy)
- Fidel Castro makes a sudden exit from the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, citing a special situation created by his presence at the summit. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexico did not receive any suggestion from the US government to prevent a meeting between US President George W. Bush and Fidel Castro at the UN Summit in Monterrey, Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda says. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The US bluntly denies that it had a hand in Fidel Castro's surprise departure from UN summit in Monterrey. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Mexican lawmakers from the nation's three major parties criticize President Vicente Fox for reportedly pressuring Fidel Castro to leave early at the UN Summit in Monterrey. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A statement by the Cuban Communist Party blames the Mexican minister, Jorge Castañeda, for pressuring Castro to stay away from the Monterrey meeting. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A Mexican abstention at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva would be regarded as positive and consistent with traditional Mexican foreign policy, says Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister, Felipe Pérez Roque. (April 2002, Foreign Relations)
- Mexico says that it would support a UN resolution censuring Cuba for its human rights record. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Mexican legislature's lower house passes a resolution asking President Vicente Fox's government to abstain from a UN vote on the human rights situation in Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs expresses disapproval of its Ambassador to Cuba's statements recommending that his government abstain from voting on a Cuban resolution at the UN Commission in Geneva. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro releases an audio tape of a phone call in which the Mexican president tried to persuade him to cancel or cut short his attendance at the UN development summit in Monterrey. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A declaration issued by the Mexican government deplores Castro's "inappropriate" disclosure of a private telephone conversation between President Fox and himself. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Castro describes the Mexican reaction criticizing Castro's disclosure of his private telephone conversation with President Fox as "precipitate and irresponsible." (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- Former Presidents Eduardo Frei, Patricio Aylwin, Ernesto Samper, Felipe González, the Spanish and French Foreign Ministers, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, and the OAS Secretary General condemn Castro's disclosure of a private exchange with his Mexican counterpart, Vicente Fox. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexico's latest embarrassing row with Cuba deepens divisions between President Vicente Fox and the Mexican Congress. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexican Ambassador to Cuba, Ricardo Pascoe, announces the cancellation of scheduled events in Cuba to celebrate Mexican Independence. (August 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Mexican Foreign Office denies having cancelled the celebration of Mexico's national holiday in its embassy in Cuba. (August 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexico's Ambassador to Cuba is under investigation for alleged irregularities in the administration of the Mexican diplomatic offices in Havana. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Mexican Foreign Secretariat says that their country's ambassador to Cuba, who earlier was accused of embezzlement, has merely made some "administrative errors". (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban government holds a cultural gala in honor of Mexico's independence day. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Meeting in Havana, parliamentarians from Mexico and Cuba are unable to reach an agreement on human rights issues. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Mexico replaces its ambassador to Cuba. (September 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- President Vicente Fox nominates diplomat Roberta Lajous as Mexico's new ambassador to Havana. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Panama

- The Panamanian government sends a letter to UN Secretary General, which states that Cuba has made "careless and offensive statements" regarding the lawsuit against the alleged terrorist Luis Posada Carriles and three other Cuban-Americans imprisoned in Panama. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Saying there was insufficient evidence to support a case, Panama's prosecutor's office announces that Luis Posada Carriles and three Miami Cubans arrested in November 2000 would not face charges of attempted homicide against Fidel Castro. (February 2002)
- Lawyers for Posada Carriles, accused of masterminding a plot to kill Fidel Castro, say that their client's case has remained "in limbo" because of delays in Panama's judicial system. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a statement warning that terrorist Luis Posada Carriles could escape from the hospital where he has been sent by Panamanian authorities. (June 2002, Terrorism)
- Panamanian Foreign Minister and his Cuban counterpart meet in Panama to review the two countries' bilateral political and diplomatic relations. (July 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A court suspends a pretrial hearing for Luis Posada Carriles and his three accomplices while it considers a complaint from the prosecution against the presiding judge. (December 2002, Terrorism)

Peru

- Fidel Castro meets with the Foreign Minister of Peru. (January 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Peru pushes for a Latin American mechanism that can look into the situation of human rights in Cuba in coordination with Cuban authorities. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Peruvian Prime Minister Roberto Dañino describes as "unacceptable" and "impertinent" the Cuban government's statements following the Peruvian endorsement of a UN draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Uruguay

- Uruguayan Foreign Affairs Minister Didier Operti rejects "offensive" remarks made by his Cuban counterpart Felipe Pérez Roque during a public appearance. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- A donation to the people of Uruguay of 200,000 doses of a Cuban vaccine against meningitis B, arrives in Montevideo, although President Jorge Batlle insisted on deducting the cost of the vaccine from the island's debt to Uruguay. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro insults the president of Uruguay calling him a "stale and abject Judas" for its sponsorship of the UN Human Rights Commission resolution against Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Uruguay breaks diplomatic ties with Cuba. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Uruguayan former Health Care Minister, Luis Fraschini, announces that he is pondering the possibility of filing a damages suit for slander against Fidel Castro, who called him a "murderer" and criticized his advisors. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban foreign ministry blames the Uruguayan President for the political strife that led to the break down of diplomatic relations. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs) Fidel Castro refers to the Uruguayan President as "subservient" and "weeping". (June 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Venezuela

- Fidel Castro arrives in Venezuela to participate in the 3rd Summit of the Association of Caribbean States held in Margarita Island. (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro, commenting on Venezuelan business leaders who organized a nationwide protest strike against President Hugo Chávez, says he wishes them all a "heart stoppage." (December 2001, Foreign Affairs)
- A group of seventy Venezuelans fly into Cuba to be treated for various ailments, as part of the two nations' cooperation accords. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The official Cuban newspaper Granma condemns Hugo Chávez's ouster from the Venezuelan presidency as "a coup orchestrated by corrupt politicians and business interests". (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- "The Bolivarian Revolution Triumphs", the Communist Party newspaper Granma says in a front page story about Chávez's return to Miraflores Palace. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister goes on a diplomatic visit to Venezuela. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro confirms he sought help from various countries to rescue the Venezuelan President, as a coup unfolded in Caracas. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- State-owned oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (PDV) stops its contractual deliveries of crude and oil products to Cuba due to the Caribbean island's reported \$63 million in outstanding debt. (May 2002, Economy)
- Venezuela's supreme court opens an investigation into a preferential oil sales agreement with Cuba that has been widely criticized by political foes of President Hugo Chavez. (August 2002, Economy)
- The first shipment of Venezuelan crude oil to Cuba under preferential financial terms departs for the Caribbean island. (September 2002, Economy)
- Cuba rejects charges from the Venezuelan opposition that its agents were involved in the Chavez administration's takeover of a striking oil tanker. (December 2002, Foreign Affairs)

Russia

- Russian President Vladimir Putin announces that Russia will close its major electronic radar station in Lourdes, Cuba. (September 2001, Security)
- The Cuban government releases an official note in which it is stated that it disagrees with its closure. (September 2001, Security)
- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov arrives in Havana to hold consultations on urgent matters. (November 2001, Foreign Affairs) The Russian Armed Forces confirms the dismantling of the electronic spy center at Lourdes, in Cuba. (January 2002, Security)
- The Russian military complete the withdrawal of equipment from Russia's electronic intelligence center in Lourdes. (August 2002, Security)
- Senior Russian and Cuban diplomats meet to discuss the current state of bilateral relations. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- The Cuban Foreign Ministry "strongly" condemns the taking of hostages in a Moscow theatre. (October 2002, Foreign Affairs)

UN General Assembly

- For the 11th straight year, the UN General Assembly approves a resolution urging the US to end its trade embargo against Cuba by a vote of 173-3 with four abstentions. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)

UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva

- Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs initiates an international tour to offset an unfavourable vote against Cuba during the meeting of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. (February 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Member countries of the UN Commission on Human Rights are drafting a condemnatory resolution against Cuba that asserts that Fidel Castro's government has made unsatisfactory progress with regards to human rights. (March 2002, Foreign Affairs)

- The UN's main human rights body approves by 23 votes and 21 against it a Latin American call for Cuba to improve its human rights record. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Cuba calls the vote against the island at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva a “mockery” and an “insult”, insisting that its promoters “lack the moral authority” to sponsor such a condemnation. (April 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- During his May Day speech, Fidel Castro lambastes those countries that backed a UN resolution censuring his government's human rights record, and calls them “a bunch of trash”. (May 2002, Foreign Affairs)

SECURITY

Ana Belén Montes

- The Defense Intelligence Agency's senior analyst for matters involving Cuba, Ana Belén Montes, is arrested and accused of providing classified information about military exercises and other sensitive operations to the Cuban government. (September 2001, Security)
- Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage refers to the arrest of Ana Belén Montes as “lies and fallacy”. (November 2001, Security) Ana Belén Montes pleads guilty to being a spy for Fidel Castro's government. (March 2002, Security)
- Ana Belén Montes is sentenced to 25 years in prison. (October 2002, Security)
- Cuban Foreign Minister expresses “profound respect and admiration” for the convicted spy, and says he hopes someday it will be unnecessary for men and women of the moral stature of Ana Belén Montes to sacrifice their lives. (October 2002, Security)
- Citing unacceptable activities, the State Department ordered the expulsion of two Washington-based Cuban diplomats for their role in support of Ana Belén Montes, and in a separate action, two members of Cuba's mission to the United Nations were asked to leave the country for “engaging in activities deemed to be harmful to the United States.” (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba rejects US charges that the Cuban diplomats based in Washington and in the Cuban mission to the UN were engaged in unacceptable activities. (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

International Treaties

- Cuba announces that it would sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. (September 2002, Security)

Military Relations

- A Chinese military delegation headed by the Political Commissioner of the General Department of the Popular Liberation Army is on a visit to Cuba. (April 2002, Security)
- Vietnam Vice-Minister of Defence, Phuong Quang Thanh, visits the island. (May 2002, Security)
- Cuba wishes to increase its military relations with China, according to statements made in Beijing by the Director of the Political Department General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba. (July 2002, Security)

Russian Radar Station

- Russian President Vladimir Putin announces that Russia will close its major electronic radar station in Lourdes, Cuba. (September 2001, Security)
- The Cuban government releases an official note in which it is stated that it disagrees with its closure. (September 2001, Security)
- The Russian Armed Forces confirms the dismantling of the electronic spy center at Lourdes, in Cuba. (January 2002, Security)
- It is reported that China is interested in taking over the Russian military base of Lourdes. (May 2002, Security)
- The Russian military complete the withdrawal of equipment from Russia's electronic intelligence center in Lourdes. (August 2002, Security)

TERRORISM

International Treaties

- In a letter to the Secretary General of the UN, Fidel Castro informs that Cuba has decided to adhere to the existing twelve international instruments related to terrorism. (October 2001)
- Cuba signs a declaration against terrorism during the XI Ibero-American Summit in Lima. (November 2001)
- Cuba has endorsed the twelve international agreements against terrorism. (November 2001)
- A Cuban bill against acts of terrorism is approved at the 8th Session of the National Assembly of People's Power. (December 2001)

September 11 and US War Against Terror

- A few hours after the September 11 terrorist attack, Cuba issues an official declaration stating that the government "strongly repudiates and condemns" the attacks against the US facilities. (September 2001, Terrorism)
- Fidel Castro states that September 11 was a day of tragedy for the US. (September 2001, Terrorism)
- Cuba issues a second official statement on the world situation after September 11, which expresses its opposition to war. (September 2001, Terrorism)
- Fidel Castro insists on the need to oppose terrorism and war. (October 2001, Terrorism)
- The Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs condemns the war against Afghanistan. (November 2001, Terrorism)
- The Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister says that Cuba has provided extensive assistance on terrorism to the US authorities. (November 2001, Terrorism)
- US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says the Pentagon is planning to house captured al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban fighters for an undetermined time at Guantánamo Base, Cuba. (December 2001, Terrorism)
- US military authorities at the Guantánamo Bay naval base in Cuba take custody of the first Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters, after their transfer from Afghanistan. (January 2002, Terrorism)

- The Cuban government announces its official position on the transfer of Afghan prisoners of war to the US Naval Base at Guantánamo, expressing its willingness to cooperate with the US militaries. (January 2002, Terrorism)
- During a conversation with foreign media inside the Cuban military zone in Guantánamo, Raúl Castro says if any Taliban or Al Qaeda prisoners escape from the Guantánamo Naval Base, Cuba will send them straight back to American custody. (January 2002, Terrorism 2002, Terrorism)
- The US State Department insists on not accepting Cuba's offer of assistance to Afghan prisoners in Guantánamo. (January 2002, Terrorism)
- The Cuban newspaper Granma says that if the terrorist attacks against the US on September 11, 2001 would not have occurred, the US extreme right "would have invented them". (September 2002, Terrorism)
- The US naval base in Guantánamo is keeping a climate of détente vis à vis the island, say Cuban military sources. (September 2002, Terrorism)

US Accusations

- The US keeps Cuba in the State Department's list of terrorist states. (September 2001, Terrorism)
- The British Energy Minister says that Great Britain disagrees with the US as to Cuba being a sponsor of terrorism. (October 2001, Terrorism)
- The President of Cuba's National Assembly says that Cuba is opposed to terrorism, and on the contrary it has been a victim of terrorism. (January 2002, Terrorism)
- The Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the US State Department says that Cuba harbours members of the Basque terrorist organization ETA. (February 2002, Terrorism)
- The Cuban authorities reject the US's arguments for including the island on the list of countries that sponsor terrorism and states that if it has ETA members on its territory, it is at the request of the Spanish government. (February 2002, Terrorism)
- The US Senate passes the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act, prohibiting admission of people from Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Sudan and North Korea to the US, unless they are coming to the US as immigrants. (April 2002, Terrorism)
- John R. Bolton, US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control, publicly accuses Cuba of producing small quantities of germs that can be used in biological warfare. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- The Bush administration's accusation that Cuba has developed a limited offensive germ warfare capability generates sharp reactions among some US Congressmen who demand evidence to such an allegation. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- A Russian scientist living in the US says that in the 1980's he taught Cuban scientists much of what they know about weapons of mass destruction. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- Fidel Castro denies that Cuba is producing germs to produce biological weapons, and challenges American authorities to offer evidence. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- US National Security Advisor says that there is plenty of reason to be very concerned about what the Cubans are doing in the biotechnology area. (May 2002, Terrorism)

- Former US President Jimmy Carter says that he does not believe that Cuba is collaborating with Libya in biological research. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- US Secretary of State Colin Powell appears to back off with an allegation that Cuba was working to develop biological weapons. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuba thanks Colin Powell for his "effort to clarify" the charges against the island. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- The US says Havana should open its laboratories to the international community. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- Iran's ambassador to Havana denies US government allegations that Cuba transfers technology to countries such as his. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- In a speech focussed on US government allegations that Cuba transfers technology to a number of countries for germ warfare, Fidel Castro says Americans should never fear an attack by Cuba. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- The UN Conference on Disarmament hears Cuba accuse the US of lying about alleged attempts by Cuba to prepare biological weapons. (May 2002, Terrorism)
- Testifying before a Senate foreign relations subcommittee, US Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research acknowledges that the US does not have "clear, incontrovertible proof" that Cuba is developing biological weapons. (June 2002, Terrorism)
- It is revealed that a plenary session of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party accused Manuel de Jesús Limonta Vidal, former Director of the Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of conducting biotechnological transfers to Iran without consultation with Cuban government officials. (July 2002, Terrorism)
- Otto Reich, the State Department's assistant secretary for the Western Hemisphere, accuses Castro of being a terrorist. (August 2002, Terrorism)
- Under Secretary of State John Bolton says Cuba maintains "at least a limited, offensive biological warfare research-and-development effort". (August 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuba launches a web site to refute US accusations that it is linked to terrorist activities. (September 2002, Terrorism)
- The State Department accuses Cuba of deliberately subverting American efforts to fight terrorism by steadily providing Washington with erroneous tips and other false information about potential threats. (September 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuba's foreign minister angrily rebuts State Department charges. (September 2002, Terrorism)
- Fidel Castro invites the international community to inspect biotech research facilities in Cuba to counter US accusations that the country is developing biological weapons. (October 2002, Terrorism)
- US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Otto Reich, reiterates that Cuba is trying to equip itself with biological weapons. (October 2002, Terrorism)
- Castro dismisses Reich's accusations as an "absolute lie". (October 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuban authorities are studying the request made by Spain for them to exercise greater control over the activities of the ETA members who live in the island. (November 2002, Terrorism)
- Cuba opens its labs and biotechnology institutions to foreign specialists and the media attending the Congress Biotechnology Havana 2002. (November 2002, Terrorism)

US-CUBA RELATIONS

Commerce

- US business Executive Marvin Lehrer displays his products at the Havana International Fair. (October 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The government of the United States offers Cuba humanitarian assistance in the wake of Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban Government thanks the US offer and says that "the most useful thing for our country would be, as an exceptional measure (...) to allow Cuban public companies to purchase in an expeditious manner specific quantities of foodstuffs, medicine and raw materials". (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- In a speech, Fidel Castro speaks for the first time about US food sales to Cuba: "It's a good gesture", he says. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Four agribusinesses become the first US firms in 40 years to sign trade agreements with Cuba to supply about US\$20 million of food to the island. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- US State Department Assistant Secretary for Latin America says that sales of US food to Cuba would not mark a new era in troubled relations. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The White House announces its opposition to a Senate proposal allowing the private financing of US food sales to Cuba. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Two ships carrying US food arrive in Cuba, completing the first direct food trade between the two countries. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- In response to Miami-based Cuban exiles who opposed the US food sales, Fidel Castro states "nobody could say that we have spent one cent too much or that we have bought for political reasons." (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- A ship carrying wheat from the US arrives in Havana. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations) A US company signs a deal to sell lard to Cuba. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A ship at the Port of Lake Charles is loaded with 2,500 metric tons of rice and shipped to Cuba. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Illinois Governor George Ryan arrives in Havana with drug company representatives willing to do business with Cuba. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A dozen of high Cuban government officials, executives from more than a hundred US companies, members of Congress and officials from important US farming states inaugurate a conference promoting trade with Cuba in Cancun, Mexico. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba says modest "gestures" like easing credit restrictions might stimulate more trade with the US. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The president of Cuba's import company Alimport tells a news conference that Cuba will buy more American food if the US government continues to expedite licenses for the sales. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro holds a six-hour meeting with US poultry industry representatives. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban government signs a new round of contracts to buy US\$32 million of food from American agricultural firms. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Bush administration reiterates its opposition to a proposal pending in Congress to allow private US financing of food sales to Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

- Radlo Foods LLC announces that it has agreed to supply ten million fresh shell eggs to Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US denies visas to at least 60 officials with the Cuban food importer agency who have been invited by US agricultural producers. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- California Representative Cal Dooley calls for a non-binding House of Representatives vote in support of private US financing of food sales to Cuba. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A motion passes 273 to 143 in the House of Representatives regarding private financing of agriculture sales to Cuba. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Facing opposition from the Bush administration and House leaders, senators drop a provision to expand trade with Cuba from a US\$73.5 billion, 10-year farm bill. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A container ship docks in Havana harbor with tons of frozen Michigan turkeys sold to Cuba, along with hundreds of thousands of eggs. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US Department of the Treasury grants the Georgia Department of Agriculture a license to travel to Cuba. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The government of Cuba provides final approval for the first United States government authorized US Food & Agribusiness Exhibition in Havana. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba buys 22-hundred tons of dry peas from North Dakota. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The first direct shipment of American apples to Cuba in 40 years arrives in Havana. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Governor John Hoeven of North Dakota travels to Cuba on a trade mission. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Tampa Mayor Dick Greco and the chairman of the city's chamber of commerce travel to Cuba. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- State Department spokesman Charles Barclay describes trips to Cuba such as the one taken by Tampa's Mayor Dick Greco as "inappropriate." (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura announces his trip to Havana at the invitation of the organizers of a food and agribusiness exhibition. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A new shipment of food from the US arrives in Havana. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Citing a lack of "basic freedoms" in Cuba, Governor Jeb Bush urges Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura to reconsider his plans to attend a trade exposition in Havana. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Democratic candidate for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services announces his position on expanding agricultural trade with Cuba. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Officials from the Florida city of Pensacola say they want the Cuban government to use their port to ship food from the US to the island. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Assistant US Secretary of State Otto Reich makes use of harsh language to criticize Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura and US business leaders for planning to attend an agribusiness exhibition in Havana. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

- Bush administration officials agree to begin examining transactions between the US and Cuba to make sure companies are not offering Cuba financing or taking other steps that violate US law. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba tries to negotiate the purchase of sugar in the US market (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuban government officials welcome American executives to the US Food & Agribusiness Exhibition in Havana. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro orchestrates a series of marathon private meetings with several delegations attending the United States Food and Agribusiness Exhibition in Havana. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US food sales to Cuba reach nearly US\$90 million at the agribusiness fair. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US is poised to become Cuba's 10th-largest trading partner in 2002, less than a year after food sales began to the island. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

Diplomatic Activities and Statements

- The spokeswoman of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations confirms having held diplomatic contacts with the US. (September 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban Minister of Justice announces his invitation to the US Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA), to attend the Regional Conference on Drug Control in the Caribbean to be held in Havana. (September 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The government of the US informs the Cuban Interests Section in Washington that the movement of Cuban diplomats on US soil has been restricted. (October 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The government of the United States offers Cuba humanitarian assistance in the wake of Hurricane Michelle. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban Government thanks the US offer and says that “the most useful thing for our country would be, as an exceptional measure (...) to allow Cuban public companies to purchase in an expeditious manner specific quantities of foodstuffs, medicine and raw materials”. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- In a speech to the UN General Assembly, Cuban Foreign Minister, Felipe Pérez Roque, says Cuba wants to re-establish normal and mutually respectful relations with the United States. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba's foreign minister, Felipe Pérez Roque, says that the US should remove restrictions on travel to Cuba. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- In a speech, Fidel Castro speaks for the first time about US food sales to Cuba: “It's a good gesture”, he says. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- US State Department Assistant Secretary for Latin America says that sales of US food to Cuba would not mark a new era in troubled relations. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro says US immigration laws are to blame for fatal risks taken by Cuban emigrants. (November 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- The 17th round of talks for the review of the migration accords signed between the US and Cuba takes place in Havana. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- About 500 Americans among Congressmen, businesspeople and their families, and young members of the Young President Organization visit the island. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

- With Congress in recess, President Bush installs Otto J. Reich, as the new assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- President George W. Bush keeps in place a prohibition on Americans suing people or companies that now control property confiscated after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba in 1959. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro says that January 2002 should be called "Americans' Month" in Cuba because of the high number of US visitors to the island. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro says that a new climate of cooperation reigns in Cuba-US relations, proving that the two countries are capable of getting along. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US dismisses Cuban speculation about a possible improvement in relations. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US President George Bush orders a review of the policy toward Cuba in order to "achieve a fast and peaceful transition to democracy on the island" (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The head of the US Interests Section in Havana, Vicky Huddleston, warns Fidel Castro's government that it must improve the human rights situation on the island. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US government will oppose any attempt to lessen the four decades long embargo against Cuba, states James Carragher, Director of Cuban Affairs at the State Department. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro accuses the US of carrying out biological attacks against Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US Secretary of State Colin Powell says that he does not expect democratization or an improvement in the human rights situation in Cuba so long as Fidel Castro remains in power. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- State Department's annual Human Rights Report for 2001 states that the Cuban government continues to violate systematically the fundamental civil and political rights of its citizens. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro refers to the recent US State Department Report on human rights in Cuba as "toilet paper". (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- In a fast-escalating war of words between the White House's Latin America policy chief and Fidel Castro's government, Havana calls Otto Reich a "terrorist" with a "sick" hatred of the Cuban Revolution. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US Secretary of State, Colin Powell says that Castro and his regime are anachronisms. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The White House expresses approval of the Cuban government's deportation of a number of criminals wanted in the US but denies the possibility of a bilateral agreement on judicial cooperation between the two countries. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Vicki Huddleston, chief of the US interests section in Havana, says the Bush administration has stepped up support for the dissident movement in Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba's foreign minister lashes out at the US over allegations that US officials are distributing radios so Cubans can listen to pro-American broadcasts. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro affirms that new US plots against Cuba are underway. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

- President Bush outlines his Initiative for a New Cuba, and offers scholarships in the US for Cuban students and professionals who "try to build independent civil institutions in Cuba," as well as some for family members of political prisoners. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuban National Assembly president Ricardo Alarcón criticizes US president George Bush for "having the nerve" to raise his Initiative for a New Cuba in Florida. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Referring to US President George W. Bush as "Mr. W.," Fidel Castro says the democracy Bush wants to see in Cuba would be a corrupt and unfair system that ignores the poor. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro says that the US is ruling world politics under Nazi methods. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The 18th US and Cuba migration talks take place in New York. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- In a response to President Bush's policy speech in Miami, Fidel Castro warns that the migratory accords and US Interests Section in Havana could be jeopardized. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The State Department defends US diplomats in Cuba against charges by Fidel Castro that they are violating the country's sovereignty. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, says that any action on the part of Fidel Castro regime that may lead to a mass exodus of Cubans to the US would be seen as an "act of aggression" against that country. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The President of the Cuban Parliament, Ricardo Alarcón, says that the US is treating the island with "renewed hostility". (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Responding to rumors buzzing in Cuba that Cubans might be planning an exodus of "rafters" from the island, the US Coast Guard urges Cubans not to take to the seas. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuban police increases patrols along the Malecon coastal highway after several days of rumors that Cuban exiles are planning to sail boats to the edge of Cuban waters to pick up refugees seeking to flee the island. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro attends an unprecedented Fourth of July celebration at the Karl Marx theater in Havana. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The State Department accuses Fidel Castro of duplicity for showing up at a US Independence Day party in Havana while denying the Cuban people their freedoms. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US President Bush notifies Congress that he will waive Title III of the Helms Burton Act. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba says it is ready to cooperate with the US to fight the West Nile virus outbreak. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuba warns the international community that a US attack on Iraq would deal a death blow to multilateralism and the UN itself. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban government reports that during 2002, 596 illegal Cuban migrants have been sent back to Cuba by the US Coast Guard. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The 19th US and Cuba migration talks take place in Havana. (December 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

Embargo, Travel Ban

- A US Senate panel examines Washington's restriction on travel to Cuba. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- After meeting with Fidel Castro, several US congressional representatives visiting Cuba call for an end to Washington's embargo against the island. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- An Arkansas' congressional delegation says that the US should lift its trade embargo with Cuba to help Arkansas farmers. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuba Working Group, a bipartisan group of House members, unveil a controversial agenda to alter the US trade embargo and put an end to restrictions on travel to Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuba Working Group call for unrestricted US travel and increased trade with Cuba. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- President Bush's spokesman says that US trade with Cuba would "prop up an oppressive regime". (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations) Congressman Jeff Flake, a member of the Cuba Working Group, announces a bill to lift the ban on Americans from travel to Cuba. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US Assistant Secretary of State Otto Reich implores the House of Representatives to reject a proposal to ease restrictions on travel by US citizens to Cuba. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The House votes to lift the Cuba travel ban. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro expresses gratitude to US lawmakers who voted to ease sanctions against the island. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- White House spokesman says the US President will veto decisions taken by Congress that change the US administration policy toward Cuba. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- House Majority Leader Dick Armey (Republican-Texas) declares that the US should drop its embargo of Cuba and allow American citizens to travel to the communist island. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Anti-Castro activists in Congress struggle hard to preserve the US embargo against Cuba. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Otto Reich says easing economic sanctions on Cuba would threaten US businesses and national security. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The only Arkansas Republican in the US House of Representatives, John Boozman, says the US embargo on trade with Cuba is likely to be history within a few years. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A poll finds clear support for continuing the long-term economic embargo against Cuba, while a national survey shows over fifty percent Americans believe the US should lift restrictions on Cuba. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US Senator George Allen (Republican-Virginia), is coming out strongly against easing American trade restrictions on Cuba. (September 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The 40 year-old US economic blockade on Cuba is weakening, but won't be lifted overnight, Fidel Castro tells the press. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Congressman Cal Dooley introduces a bipartisan legislation to provide for the ending of the Helms-Burton Act. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Nobel Peace laureate Jimmy Carter urges Washington to lift its 40-year embargo against the island. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

- The US Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue says his government should lift the trade embargo against Cuba. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Film director Steven Spielberg, visiting Cuba for the first time, says the US should end its trade embargo against the island. (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- For the 11th straight year, the UN General Assembly approves a resolution urging the US to end its trade embargo against Cuba by a vote of 173-3 with four abstentions. (November 2002, Foreign Affairs)
- Fidel Castro assures that his country is prepared for "an eternity" of the US economic embargo. (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

Jimmy Carter's Visit

- Former President Jimmy Carter is considering an invitation by Fidel Castro to visit Cuba, Carter spokeswoman says. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Jimmy Carter says he expects to win approval from the Bush administration to travel to Cuba. (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro says he wants Jimmy Carter "to see our country, not so that he supports us or anything like that, indeed so that he may make all the criticisms he wants". (March 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Jimmy Carter announces that he will head a delegation to Cuba on May 12-17. (April 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A delegation from the Cuban American National Foundation meets with Jimmy Carter to offer advice on his upcoming visit to Havana. (April 2002, Exile Community)
- Fidel Castro meets Former US President Jimmy Carter at Havana's international airport. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro and Jimmy Carter have talks at Havana's Palace of the Revolution. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Carter attends a breakfast meeting with two opposition leaders during which he was briefed on the Varela Project. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US President George W. Bush denies that Carter's visit to Cuba has complicated US policy towards Havana. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Speaking in Spanish in a live, uncensored broadcast on Cuban television, Jimmy Carter urges the US administration to lift its ban against Cuba and take the first steps toward normalizing relations between the two countries, and makes an appeal for Cuba to join the democracies of the Western Hemisphere. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Jimmy Carter meets in Havana with senior representatives of the Catholic Church in Cuba. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations) Jimmy Carter meets with more than 20 dissidents and urges them to keep up the fight for democratic change and human rights in Cuba. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The National Minority Business Council, Inc. (NMBC) says it firmly supports Carter's visit to Cuba as a gesture toward normalizing trade relations with the island. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- President Bush meets at the White House with former President Jimmy Carter to discuss Mr. Carter's recent trip to Cuba. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

The Wasp Net

- A federal court in Florida sentences Gerardo Hernández, and Ramón Labañino to life imprisonment for trying to infiltrate US military bases and conspiring to murder four Cuban-Americans whose private planes were shot down by Cuban jet fighters in 1996. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro calls the two convicted spies sentenced to life in prison in the United States “heroes”. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- René González is sentenced to the maximum 15-year prison term as an unregistered foreign agent. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- Cuban First Vice-President, Raúl Castro, leads a rally to protest the convictions handed down against three Cuban intelligence agents. (December 2001, Domestic Affairs)
- Fernando González, is sentenced to 22-year prison term as an unregistered foreign agent. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- A federal court in Florida sentences Antonio Guerrero to life imprisonment. (December 2001, US-Cuba Relations)
- At a special session of National Assembly of People’s Power held in Havana, it is decided to bestow the titles of Heroes of the Republic of Cuba on the five Cubans who were sentenced in the US for spying . (December 2001, Domestic Affairs)
- George and Marisol Gari are sentenced to 7 and 3 years in jail respectively by a Miami federal court after the accused admitted spying on the US for the Fidel Castro government. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban People's Power National Assembly President, Ricardo Alarcón, denounces the delay in the appeals process in an Atlanta court in the case of five fellow countrymen imprisoned in the US under espionage charges, due to the existence of over 200 classified documents. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The US State Department reverses its decision of granting a US visa to the wife and younger daughter of René González, one of the five jailed Cubans accused of espionage in the US. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Juan Emilio Aboy has been arrested, after an FBI investigation concluded that Aboy was an agent of the Cuban Intelligence Service. (May 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Accused Cuban spy Juan Emilio Aboy adamantly denies federal allegations that he was a covert agent for the Fidel Castro government and a member of a Cuban spy ring dismantled by the FBI in Miami. (June 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The President of the Cuban Parliament, Ricardo Alarcón, calls the refusal by US authorities to allow the wife of one of the five Cubans sentenced for espionage in the US to visit her husband a “despicable act”. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro announces that he would persist in his struggle for the return of the five Cubans convicted in the US on charges of espionage. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Claiming to have new evidence showing that a fair jury was impossible to get in Miami, appellate lawyers for five convicted Cuban spies ask for a new trial. (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The Cuban People's Power National Assembly shows its support to the motion for a new trial presented by the attorneys in the process against the five Cuban prisoners in US jails. (November 2002, US-Cuba Relations)

US Non-Government Relations with Cuba

- Young members of the Young President Organization visit the island. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Fidel Castro meets with 768 students and professors from US colleges and universities visiting Cuba under the University of Pittsburgh-sponsored Semester at Sea program. (January 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- The U.S.-Cuba Sister City Association (USCSCA) holds a meeting in Havana. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US filmmaker Oliver Stone returns to the US from Cuba, where he met repeatedly with Fidel Castro to discuss a documentary he intends to make on Cuba. (February 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Approximately 100 Americans including university students and academics visit Cuba. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Ralph Nader, on a visit to Cuba, calls on the US to lift its trade embargo and remove travel restrictions to the communist country. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- Close to a hundred members of the XIII US-Cuba Friendship Caravan arrive in Cuba from Tampico, Mexico. (July 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- A group of young students from the US arrive in Havana to begin studies at the Latin American School of Medicine. (August 2002, US-Cuba Relations)
- US filmmaker Steven Spielberg accepts an invitation from the Cuban film institute (Instituto Cubano del Arte y Industria Cinematograficos) to visit Cuba. (October 2002, US-Cuba Relations)