

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

17 JULY 2013

SA should consider its friendship with Cuba

"South Africa should seriously reflect on its friendship - in fact cordial relations with Cuba said Rev. Theunis Botha, leader of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP).

Botha reacted to the news that an attempt was made to smuggle 240 tons of weapons from Cuba to North Korea. The weapons were discovered on board a North Korean ship, hidden under a load of sugar, as it prepared to pass through the Panama.

Cuba's explanation that these were old weapons being sent to North Korea for repairs, and would be returned, is contradicted by the fact that they were hidden and not declared as cargo. The incident further follows shortly after a senior North Korean military delegation visited Cuba.

"It is understandable therefore that American politicians described Cuba as a pariah state, and South Africa's close friendship with this communist dictatorship can only be to the detriment of our country."

SA moet besin oor vriendskap met Kuba

"Suid-Afrika moet ernstig besin oor sy vriendskap – trouens hartlike betrekkings – met Kuba sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

Botha het gereageer op die nuus dat probeer is om 'n vrag van 240 ton wapens van Kuba na Noord-Korea te smokkel. Die wapen is aan boord van 'n Noord-Koreaanse skip, versteek onder 'n vrag suiker, gevind voor dit deur die Panamakanaal sou vaar.

Kuba se verduideliking dat dit bloot ou wapens is wat na Noord-Korea gestuur is om herstel te word, en teruggestuur sou word, word weerspreek in die feit dat die wapens versteek was, en nie as vrag verklaar is nie. Boonop volg die voorval kort na 'n senior Noord-Koreaanse militêre afvaardiging Kuba besoek het.

"Dit is uiters gepas dat Amerikaanse politici Kuba as muishondstaat beskryf, en Suid-Afrika se hegte vriendskap met dié kommunistiese diktatuur kan maar net tot ons land se nadeel wees."