

**FAO Sir George Hollingberry**

**UK Ambassador to Cuba**

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the International Aid Trust, I express my highest respect and appreciation for your service in Havana to establish constructive cooperation with Cuban officials and effectively implement humanitarian projects for the benefit of the people of Cuba.

I am writing to you because of the unfortunate situation that occurred in the port of Mariel in Cuba with our container # UETU5748960 for more than two months. It is a humanitarian cargo from the United Kingdom collected from the charitable donations of British citizens.

As we have learned, the formal reason for the delay of our humanitarian cargo container was customs officials' assumption that the cargo contained prohibited items. However, there is no evidence to support this assumption, which couldn't be, as our humanitarian cargo contains only essential goods to help those in need in Cuba (clothing, food, wheelchairs, mattresses, footwear, baby food, toys for children, etc.).


The International Aid Trust is an independent Christian charity established in the United Kingdom and has worked worldwide since 1991. We have fruitfully cooperated with other international organizations, worldwide church associations, and charitable foundations for years. Our only goal is to help people in difficult life circumstances by providing their basic needs and respecting the dignity of every person. In 32 years, the International Aid Trust's reputation has never been tarnished by any violations of customs regulations, accounting, or other legal requirements.

It would be very undesirable if this misunderstanding regarding our container #UETU5748960 resulted in arbitrary confiscation by the Cuban authorities or spoilage during long-term storage in a port impound lot.

Aiming to resolve this incident constructively, we would be highly grateful if you could kindly use your authority and vast experience as a British diplomat to communicate with the Cuban leadership and resolve this misunderstanding, aiming to immediately release our container # UETU5748960 in the port of Mariel to the designated consignee – Iglesia Evangelica de Cuba "En Jesucristo Libres" for further distribution of British humanitarian aid to local recipients.

We look forward to further fruitful cooperation with Your Excellency and the British Embassy in Havana to develop trustful and sustainable relations between the UK and Cuba, especially in implementing humanitarian projects.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Cocker', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Rev. Bernard Cocker**

Founder & Chief Executive

International Aid Trust

Attachment: The Bill of Lading (1 page).