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# Republican candidate meets in Cuba with the grandson of Raúl Castro

Vic Mellor, a businessman and U.S. Marine veteran who campaigns as a Republican Rhode Island candidate, held talks with Raul Guillermo Rodriguez Castro during a visit to the island.

By **Alejandra Molina** • Posted on June 4, 2026 • Updated at 10:15 pm June 4, 2026



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US Alejandro Molina that he held two dinners in Havana with Raul Guillermo Rodriguez Castro, Raul Castro's grandson known as El Cangrejo.

Telemundo 51 obtained exclusive images of the meeting in which Vic Mellor, businessman and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who campaigns as a Republican candidate for Rhode Island, sitting at the table with Castro's grandson during his recent visit to Cuba.

### Florida News 24/7 on Telemundo 51.

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"It wasn't formal, it was two dinners," Mellor said. "In total they lasted maybe four hours, four and a half hours."

Mellor said he was invited by "island entrepreneurs" and that the conversation revolved around business, Cuba's future and possible changes on the island.

"He absolutely wants to update and bring Cuba to the 21st century in business and political," Mellor said of Raul Castro's best-known grandson, who has been at the center of Havana's talks with Washington.

The meeting comes amid a moment of heavy pressure from the United States on the Cuban regime, when the Trump administration applies new sanctions against GAESA, Miguel Díaz-Canel himself and his relatives, as well as a son and grandson of Raúl Castro.

Mellor clarified that he traveled as a private citizen and candidate for Congress, not as a representative of the U.S. government. He also said the White House has not contacted him about the meeting.

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One of the most striking moments of the interview was when Mellor claimed that Rodriguez Castro "is totally open" to talks with the U.S. president and to "let Trump lead the way."

El candidato también dijo que fue invitado a regresar a Cuba para nuevas conversaciones, posiblemente este mismo fin de semana.

Todo sucede mientras crecen las expectativas sobre un posible cambio político en Cuba y la isla se sume en una crisis económica y social sin precedentes.

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