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## **SOUTH KOREA SAYS OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA WOULD SHOCK NORTH KOREA**

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*South Koreas presidential office claimed Thursday that the countrys move to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba would deal a political and psychological blow to the Souths war-divided rival North Korea, whose diplomatic footing is largely dependent on a small number of Cold War allies.*

The comments followed an announcement by South Koreas Foreign Ministry on Wednesday night that it has agreed to open ambassador-level relations with Cuba following a meeting between their United Nations representatives in New York.

With authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un embracing the idea of a new Cold War, North Korea has recently been boosting the visibility of its ties with Russia and China in an effort to break out of isolation and join a united front against Washington amid tensions over its nuclear weapons ambitions. North Korean state media has yet to comment on the South Korea-Cuba agreement.

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