

《美国结束古巴人免签居住权》

导读:据美联社援引政府官员的话：美国总统奥巴马结束授予免签进入美国的古巴人居住权的政策。



The 20-year-old policy allows Cuban migrants who reach US soil to become legal permanent residents after a year.

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In exchange, Havana has agreed to start accepting Cubans who are turned away or deported from the US.

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Many Cubans in the US say Washington is rewarding a regime which has failed to address human rights concerns.

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But President Obama is trying to continue the thawing of relations with Cuba in his final days of office.

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He said: "With this change we will continue to welcome Cubans as we welcome immigrants from other nations,

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But the carrot that has been dangled before Cubans is a special immigration right known as "wet foot, dry foot". Under that policy, Cubans who manage to get a single dry foot on US soil have the right to residency without a visa

and can apply for citizenship.

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The Cuban government blames the measure for the brain drain on the island and for encouraging thousands of people to risk their lives each year in attempts to make it to the US on rickety rafts.

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In the US itself, it has also provoked anger among other Latin-American lobby groups who feel the policy unfairly favours Cubans and grants them an immigration status well above that of other Latinos.

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With the recent thaw in relations between Washington and Havana, it always seemed likely that the policy had its days numbered - why provide an extra incentive to Cuba's people to escape if the communist island it's no longer your enemy?

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The Obama administration decision to remove the long-standing measure is probably its last act in an extraordinary period of change under the outgoing president.

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