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**Cuba's Fidel Castro receives visiting Vietnamese president**

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Cuban leader Fidel Castro held a "fraternal" meeting with the president of Vietnam in Havana Tuesday, shortly after the latter began a visit to the Caribbean island.

In the meeting, Castro and Vietnam's Tran Dai Quang said their countries will emerge victorious in their "common ongoing struggle," reported state broadcasters.

Castro and Tran agreed the visit will further cement the historical friendship between their peoples, according to a statement cited by the news reports.

The 90-year-old Cuban Revolution leader, who retired in 2006, recalled his visits to Vietnam and his earlier meetings with other top leaders of the Southeast Asian country, and expressed his admiration for Vietnamese revolutionary hero Ho Chi Minh.

Castro and Tran also discussed economic and social development in the context of climate change, armed conflicts in various regions, continuous growth in world population, low oil prices and the challenge of increasing food production on a global scale.

In recent months, Castro has received several visiting leaders to Cuba at his residence, including Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Iranian President Hasan Rouhani, and the premiers of Japan and China, Shinzo Abe and Li Keqiang, respectively.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Tran will also hold talks with his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro, and receive the Order of José Martí, the highest Cuban state honor for foreigners.

Cuba and Vietnam established diplomatic relations in 1960, a year after the triumph of a revolution led by Castro, and have since then enjoyed friendly political and economic ties, including cooperation in agriculture, tourism,

construction and education.

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