

CBS Mornings

10/16/26

7:00:50 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Inside Cuba]

ADRIANA DIAZ: Matt Gutman goes inside Cuba for a rare look at the impact of a U.S. oil blockade.

MATT GUTMAN: People say, for the first time in their lives here, they're experiencing hunger.

(....)

7:55:31 a.m. [TEASE]

14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Ahead; Inside Cuba]

NATE BURLESON: Ahead, Cuba is running out of almost everything people need. Matt Gutman is there for a closer look on how a strict U.S. embargo is affecting everyone in the country, from children in hospitals to those waiting in bread lines. That's coming up on *CBS Mornings*.

(....)

8:00:07 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Inside Cuba]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Coming up, a rare inside look at Cuba where U.S. oil blockade means shortages of everything from medicine to food. Our Matt Gutman is in Havana, talking with Cubans who say they're struggling to survive.

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8:02:59 a.m.

3 minutes and 23 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: U.S. Imposes New Sanctions Against Cuba]

DIAZ: We're going to move on now and turn overseas for a rare look inside the country of Cuba, a U.S. blockade of oil imports is blamed for a growing economic and humanitarian crisis. The Trump administration has made it clear it wants to remove Cuba's communist regime. On Thursday, the U.S. imposed new sanctions against Cuba's state-run bank, claiming it has ties to Iran. Cuba's foreign minister insists the bank is absolutely legitimate and calls the move

collective punishment. Chief correspondent Matt Gutman is in Havana, where he has seen the impact of the U.S. sanctions firsthand.

MATT GUTMAN: As night falls in Havana, darkness grips the streets here, as a strict U.S. embargo on oil imports has left the country's electrical grid in a state of new collapse. Right behind me, this is the Plaza de Armas. This is the beating heart of Old Havana. There are blackouts every single day. Most of these areas get power for about two hours. The energy crisis, coupled with crumbling infrastructure, has sent prices of basic goods skyrocketing. At this children's hospital, we saw parents lining up for care. But doctors in Cuba's once-renowned public health system tell us they can no longer source critical life-saving drugs for pediatric patients. With access to medicine scarce, some people have turned to free community-run pharmacies. "I'm fair, I'm very happy to be here," Tyri Sada [sp?] Amelia Marquez says this medication was donated after her monthly prescription started coming once every three months, if at all. Others have taken to buy from black market street vendors, like this woman. [TO WOMAN] Alprazolam, okay! Basically, Xanax.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [on 09/22/26]: It's an absolutely failed state. It's failing like never before, and it will fall.

GUTMAN: In recent months, the Trump administration has amped up its pressure campaign on Cuba's communist government, including new sanctions against its state-run bank unveiled Thursday. For the roughly two-thirds of Cubans employed by state entities, it's just the latest challenge to securing money. Pensioners can wait for hours to collect their government wages, with some telling us they go hungry. How much are they getting a month? Only about \$5 per person, depending on what they did for the government. To give you a sense of the purchasing power of \$5 right now in Havana, that buys you about 30 eggs. And, at this bread line in one of Havana's more upscale neighborhoods, we met Marilyn. She was picking up several lows for herself and friends, but with a government salary of less than \$20 per month, she says she tries to stretch each baguette for at least two days.

DIAZ: And that was Matt Gutman reporting from Havana, Cuba. We were going to have Matt live with us after that story, but the connectivity issues are so weak in Cuba that we couldn't get a strong enough signal to bring him to you live. But something that really stood out to me when reading about Cuba, and I've reported from there a couple of times, is there was a recent survey that Vanderbilt did, surveying Cubans, and nearly three out of four Cubans blamed their own government for their crisis, not the U.S. government, despite the economic impact of the sanctions from the U.S.

DUTHIERS: It's interesting, the President calls it a failed state. I wouldn't characterize it as a failed state, but people are struggling there.

BURLESON: Yeah.

DUTHIERS: And it's interesting to hear that Cubans blamed their own leaders.

DIAZ: Their own government.

BURLESON: Yeah, and not the U.S. intervention.

DIAZ: Yes, it is desperate.