Washington has piled pressure on Havana in recent months.

**Cold War mentality**

It’s all for the optics of the situation surrounding the bridge. Dick, US peace advocates agreement by US President Barack Obama and the Cuban counterpart Raúl Castro to turn the bridge over to the US during the December 17 thaw. But White House has no idea of the pressure.

Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Americas Society, says there are three motives behind this apparent pressure from Havana. The first has to do with the US public opinion that Cubans could become the leaders of the US. This idea persisted even after Cuba’s declaration that it would not allow the US to turn over the bridge. The second motive is that Cuba’s government has been pressing Washington for the release of its imprisoned leader, Raul Castro. The third motive is that Cuba’s government has been pressing Washington for the release of its imprisoned leader, Raul Castro.

The current round of the US-Cuba relationship started in 2015, when Havana surprised the world when it agreed to reopen the embassies in Washington and Havana. But then it all changed with the arrival of President Donald Trump in the White House, who told the US that Cuba is a bad actor. Havana has been a gradual erosion (of the relationship) until the moment that Cuba’s government is clearly dictating its agreement towards Cuba.

As long as Washington maintains an economic embargo, which Obama failed to lift during his presidency, the US will continue to embargo Cuba. The US has focused its ire on Cuba over two issues: its human rights record and its support for Venezuela. Havana has been critical of American policies in the region. The US has been shut down. But “the Cubans have their responsibility because they lost an opportunity when Obama opened up,” as the Raul Castro government has always refuted the existence of a mass grave.

Gabriela de Cossio, summing up months of mounting tension and mutual suspicion, said that Havana was “in a difficult condition”.

Cuba US relations backslide 3 years after landmark thaw

Havana: Five years ago this week, Washington and Havana surprised the world when they agreed to resume full diplomatic relations after decades of strain. The announcement - initially made in a joint letter by US President Barack Obama and the Cuban counterpart Raúl Castro - was a turning point in US-Cuba relations.

"We are not going to undo the ownership patterns of our economy," said Fernandez de Cossio. "The Cuban government has always refuted the existence of a mass grave."

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**Cuban reluctance to cut ties with US: Top official**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba is holding the possibility of the United States breaking off all ties but will not maintain contact with the US government, its top diplomat said Wednesday, setting a stark contrast to the new relations with Washington told AFP. "We must be aware that the government of the United States of America, summing up months of mounting tension between Havana and Washington, is still maintaining relations — five years after an historic change between the Cubans and the Americans," said Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla.

"Those in charge of US policy towards the Western Hemisphere are seeking to isolate Cuba by all means possible," he said. "We want to make clear to the world what they want to do is to break all the existing links to slow down the changes in Cuba, but the case we cannot but decide that will not happen," Rodriguez told the Associated Press.

"We are prepared for any new measures that may be taken by the US in the future," he said.

The embassies were reopened in 2015, months after US President Barack Obama and Raul Castro agreed to restore full diplomatic relations. The thaw was short lived. The US has focused its ire on Cuba over two issues: its human rights record and its support for Venezuela. Havana has been critical of American policies in the region.

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