



# Russia Provides Financial, Military and Political Support to Venezuela

**OE Watch Commentary:** President Nicolas Maduro’s visit to Moscow in early December 2018 resulted in discussions to finalize economic, military and political assistance to the South American nation. In terms of finance, Venezuela has been struggling to pay billions of dollars in debt to Russia. According to the first excerpt, Russia has overlooked this debt and accepted a new deal proposed by Maduro allowing the country to drill for oil and mine for gold in exchange for subsequent exportation to Russia.

In terms of military cooperation, during Maduro’s trip to Moscow, Russia also agreed to send two Tu-160s to Venezuela, according to the second excerpt. The Russian bombers stayed in Venezuela for less than a week, but while there they flew for over 10 hours in the Caribbean. Venezuelan Air Force F-16A/B Viper and Su-30MKV Flanker-C fighter jets also flew with the bombers during certain points of the mission, according to Russia. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu stated in early December that Russia will continue to send its military aircraft and warships to visit Venezuela as part of bilateral military cooperation, in addition to providing economic and political support to the country. **End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)**

*“These bombers stayed in the country for less than a week, but did fly with the Venezuelan Air Force during their time in country.”*

**Source:** “Rusia invertirá 6 mil millones de dólares en Venezuela (Russia to Invest \$6 billion to Venezuela),” *El Colombiano*, 6 December 2018. <http://www.elcolombiano.com/internacional/venezuela/como-apoya-rusia-a-venezuela-YD9775133>

*President Nicolas Maduro stated in early December that Venezuela signed deals securing a \$6 billion investment from Russia in the South American country’s oil and gold sectors. This deal was made following a three-day trip to Moscow by Maduro.*

**Source:** “Qué busca Rusia con su “renovada” alianza económica y militar con Venezuela (What is Russia Looking for with its Renewed Economic and Military Support to Venezuela?)” *BBC*, December 12, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-46529876>

*Meetings between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Nicolás Maduro resulted in procurement of investment, but also focused on Russia offering military support by sending (2) TU-160s bombers. These bombers stayed in the country for less than a week, but did fly with the Venezuelan Air Force during their time in country.*



Russian long-range aircraft make a flight to international airport of Venezuela.  
Source: Russian Defense Ministry, <http://eng.mil.ru/en/multimedia/photo/gallery.htm?id=62208@cmsPhotoGallery>, CC 4.0.