

Reports reveal that when **Delcy Rodríguez** integrated billionaire businessman **Alejandro Betancourt** into her administration's plans to revive Venezuela's oil industry, clandestine channels and negotiations with **Donald Trump** and **Marco Rubio** were already well underway. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

The sequence of events underscores how Betancourt served as a crucial, pre-existing bridge between the two factions:

- **The Secret Overtures:** Long before the public shift in Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez and her brother Jorge had been quietly holding talks and promoting initiatives with Washington to position themselves as a "more acceptable" alternative to Nicolás Maduro. [\[1\]](#)
- **Betancourt's Pre-Existing Role:** U.S. officials, including those connected to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, admitted to using Betancourt as an intermediary. Rubio even advocated for Betancourt in White House meetings, viewing him as a viable partner capable of navigating Venezuela's complex energy sector. [\[1\]](#)
- **The Return to Caracas:** When Rodríguez unofficially brought Betancourt back to Caracas to advise on oil, mining, and debt restructuring, it was the culmination of a sequence carefully coordinated with Washington. U.S. and British authorities had already intervened to ease Betancourt's travel restrictions and halt criminal investigations specifically so he could move freely between the U.S. and Venezuela to facilitate these talks. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Ultimately, these backchannel talks—leveraging Betancourt's unique position—laid the groundwork for the massive, free-of-cost oil deal and the public diplomatic alignment between Donald Trump and Delcy Rodríguez. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)