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havana, jan 29, reuter -- cuban president fidel castro met with tareq aziz, deputy primeminister and member of the revolutionary command council of iraq, today's granma reported.

granma said that aziz +transmitted a friendly message+ to castro from the iraqi president, saddam hussein.

during the meeting, the newspaper said, the two statesmen discussed the conflict between iran and iraq, and the initiatives taken by the ministerial commission of the non-aligned nations movement +to contribute to find a political, peaceful, just and honourable solution.+ fidel castro is the current head of the movement.

aziz informed castro, granma said, of the preparations for the summit conference of the non-aligned movement that will take place in bagdad in september.

==reuter lem/syl