

Castro Raps Reported Talk Of Fake Attack

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MIAMI (AP) Cuban Premier Fidel Castro says a reported suggestion that the United States fake an attack on its big Navy base at Guantanamo Bay as a pretext for invading Cuba was an attempt to "give moral foundations to criminal aggressions."

In a television-radio speech to the Cuban people last night, Castro said news accounts in the United States attributed the suggestion to Sen. George Smathers, D-Fla., during a conversation with former President John F. Kennedy.

Castro also blasted "the criminals in power in the United States" after saying reports indicated Smathers also talked with Kennedy about the possibility of assassinating the Cuban premier.

THE NEW YORK Times reported Smathers discussed the conversations with Kennedy in transcripts turned over to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library at Harvard.

The ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles in 1961 was attempted after the reported Smathers-Kennedy conversations.

Castro also reaffirmed his ties with the Soviet Union and warned he would carry the war to the United States and its "lackeys" if Cuba were invaded.

CASTRO ASSERTED he had no interest in improving relations with the United States and that his economic and military ties with Russia "are untouchable."

Castro's warning was seen as a reply to renewed talk of a Cuban invasion by the end of the year. A recently organized exile movement in Miami has launched a worldwide fund raising drive "to finance the war."