

Talk on Terrorism

Castro Denies Any JFK Murder Link

Miami

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro categorically denies his government had anything to do with the assassination of President John Kennedy.

But Castro implied that he would reply in kind to further terrorist attacks on Cuban property or diplomats overseas.

In a speech reported over Havana radio yesterday Castro also said Cuban combat troops are being "gradually withdrawn" from Angola but that civilian personnel are being sent to the newly independent African nation.

Speaking in the context of terrorism and what he said were attempts to kill him and other Cuban leaders in the early days of the Cuban revolution, Castro said about the Kennedy murder:

"Some imply that such action could have been retaliation by the Cuban revolution for the actions carried out against the lives of our leaders at that time. In truth, we reiterate that never has the Cuban revolution utilized terrorism.

"I can categorically affirm that the Cuban revolution never had the most minor participation in the death of the President of the United States, John Kennedy."

The CIA planned a number of assassination plots against Castro in the early 1960s, the Senate Intelligence Committee has disclosed.

Castro said, however, that be-

cause Cuba had not utilized terrorism overseas in the past did not mean it could be ruled out now.

Castro's reference to the Kennedy assassination apparently touched off rumors that Castro himself had been assassinated. Rumors of Castro's death set off a flurry of activity in some commodity markets in New York yesterday, but diplomatic sources at the United Nations said they had no information that would verify the rumors.

Castro, in the speech delivered Sunday in Havana, referred to an attack that day at the Cuban mission to the United Nations, a recent fatal blast at the Cuban Embassy in Lisbon, and other attacks, and he declared:

"The governments where bandits carry out attacks against Cuban interests should take pertinent measures to avoid that the Cuban state dedicate itself to terrorism."

Confirming earlier reports, the Cuban leader said, "We are diminishing the presence of military personnel and will increase the number of civilians" in Angola.

But he warned that his enemies should not reach any "erroneous conclusions" or try to attack the country now governed by the Soviet-supported movement, which with the timely help of 12,000 Cuban soldiers crushed two Western-backed factions in a four-month civil war.

Associated Press