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Castro denies part in JFK killing

MIAMI (AP) — Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro categorically denies his government had anything to do with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

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

In a speech reported over Havana radio Monday, Castro also said Cuban combat troops are being "gradually withdrawn" from Angola but that civilian personnel are being sent to the newly independent African nation.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 an 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 because 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 on Monday, but diplomatic sources at the United Nations said they had no information that would verify the rumors.

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

PICKLE EATERS

The average American now eats more than seven pounds of pickles a year.