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## Attwood Book Says JFK Weighed Resumption of Relations With Cuba

NEW YORK, March 10 (AP) — In the three months before his assassination, President Kennedy showed a cautious but favorable response to overtures by Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba for a resumption of diplomatic relations, a new book says.

The author said the move has been "on ice" since President Kennedy was assassinated.

Details of preliminary confidential diplomatic talks are given in the book, "The Reds and the Blacks," to be published Thursday by Harper & Row.

The author of the book is William Attwood, who in the fall of 1963 served on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. Before that Attwood was President Kennedy's Ambassador to Guinea and subsequently he was appointed by President Johnson as Ambassador to Kenya.

Attwood is now editor in chief of Look magazine.

An aide to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) said last night that the Senator con-

sidered the book "essentially accurate."

In Washington, State Department press officer Robert McCloskey would not comment on the book itself. But he did reiterate the U.S. conditions for a renewal of relations — that "Castro would have to abandon his attempts to subvert other Latin American governments and sever military ties with the Communist bloc."

The overtures by Castro were said to have begun in September, 1963.

Attwood says he had received hints from other sources that Castro was growing restive under Communist pressures and was prepared to make "substantial concessions" to achieve an accommodation with the United States.

Attwood says he suggested to Adlai E. Stevenson, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and to Averell Harriman of the State Department that quiet contact be made with the Cuban delegation.

The President approved the notion of Attwood conferring

with Dr. Carlos Lechuga, the chief Cuban delegate.

Attwood says that a few days later Lechuga told him there was a strong chance that Castro would invite him to Cuba.

Attwood says he encountered Lechuga soon after President Kennedy's assassination and Lechuga said he had been instructed by Castro on Nov. 23 to begin "formal discussions" with Attwood.

Attwood writes that he informed McGeorge Bundy, a presidential assistant, of what Lechuga had told him.

"... I informed Bundy and later was told that the Cuban exercise would probably be put on ice for a while—which it was and where it has been ever since," Attwood writes.