

HAVANA, March 4 — Premier Fidel Castro today offered to restore water service to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo. The United States quickly turned him down.

"Cuba considers the incident of the water at Guantanamo Bay closed and is ready to supply the base with water once again," Castro told foreign newsmen at a Moroccan Embassy reception that began last night and lasted into the early hours today.

"It is up to the Americans to use that water or not," U.S. State Department officials, informed of Castro's remarks, said the offer would not be accepted. Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary added: "We have already made it clear that Guantanamo is being made self-sufficient."

**Action in Retaliation**

Castro turned off the base's water supply Feb. 6 in retaliation for the arrest of 38 Cuban fishermen in four trawlers caught in American waters off Florida. The adults aboard were tried in Florida courts and all were allowed to return to Cuba after the captives paid fines for poaching.

In his remarks at the reception, Castro pointedly excluded the United States from an offer to compensate countries whose properties in Cuba has been nationalized.

He said that Cuba was willing to pay compensation for foreign properties nationalized by the Cuban government if the nations concerned pursued a "correct trade policy" toward Cuba.

Britain is following such a policy, he declared, and therefore, Cuba is willing to pay indemnification for confiscated property of the British-owned Shell Oil Co.

Castro also told the correspondents that President Johnson's Administration's policy toward Cuba "is at a standstill," but "At least in the four months of Johnson there have been no new aggressions by the CIA."

**Backing Goldwater**

Jokingly, Castro said he personally backed Sen. Barry Goldwater for President on the Republican ticket.

"With his war platform,

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nobody can be elected President of the U.S. he said.

"When the campaign commences, we will send a few cents to back Goldwater."

Castro said in reply to questions: "We are ready to trade with any European countries and we have enough reserves to pay right away."

He ridiculed Venezuela's threat to stop trade with Western countries dealing with Cuba. He said Venezuela sold them more than they buy "so the threat is empty."

He told his listeners that Cuba had not extended an invitation to French President de Gaulle to visit Cuba when he visits Mexico later this month. But he said the French President would be received "in the friendliest manner" if he ever visited Cuba.

Castro said he admired some of the positions taken by de Gaulle in Foreign affairs, "especially his demonstration of independence from the United States."

**Tory Seeks to Hold Up  
British Bus Deliveries**

Reuters

LONDON, March 4—A Conservative peer today urged the British government to withhold licenses for the export of British buses to Cuba until Cuba agrees to pay some \$67.2 million it owes for confiscated British property. The Cubans have offered to discuss compensation for most of the property.

Lord Colyton, a former Minister of State for the British colonies, also charged that as many as 60,000 political prisoners are being held in conditions like those of "Nazi concentration camps."

**U.S. Rejects Offer  
By Cuba to Restore  
Guantanamo Water**

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