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# Castro Makes Bid to Relax U. S. Friction

New York Times Service

HAVANA, Cuba — Premier Fidel Castro said Sunday night that Cuba would commit itself to withhold material support from Latin American revolutionary movements if the United States and its hemispheric allies would commit themselves to cease their material support of subversive activity against Cuba.

In the most emphatic bid he has made in recent years for easing his relations with the U. S., Castro said he did not exclude the use of some international means to supervise such a joint commitment, through his personal view was that this would not be necessary.

During an 18-hour interview with a New York Times reporter that took place over three days, Castro gave definite form to rumors and hints that have been circulating about his desire to explore a rapprochement with the U. S.

He suggested the time had come when an extensive discussion of issues between the two countries would be profitable.

Cuba's leaders were now more mature, he said, and the U. S. had given some indications — notably the Alliance for Progress — that it was willing to accept a degree of social change in Latin America.

Castro announced that as "a contribution on our part to avoid incidents," the Cuban guards around the Guantanamo Naval Base would be pulled back to a distance of several hundred yards from the dividing fence. At present they are stationed about 50 yards away, he said.

## Incidents Dwindle, Castro Says

He said he was happy to report that since the first of July provocations with which he has charged the U. S. Marine guards had dwindled from nine or 10 daily, to only one or two a day.

Turning to national affairs, Castro announced the Cuban revolutionary government will give way to a constitutional one not later than Jan. 1, 1969.

He said a socialist constitution will be adopted before the 10th anniversary of the revolution, "and perhaps considerably before."

Castro said one result of normalizing relations with

the U. S. would be the releasing of about 90 percent of the political prisoners. These amounted to "something under 15,000," he said, conceding that "this is a great many."

A later result, he said, would be discussions about indemnifying U. S. companies whose properties had been seized.

This would have to wait, however, upon the resumption of trade with the U. S., "since we could not afford it until then."

There has been no doubt in the minds of the diplomatic community here that the question of trade and the ending of raids and sabotage from abroad, are Castro's two main objectives in his efforts to explore the possibility of a detente with the U. S.

## Russia Urges Better Relations

He said the U. S. would do much better to buy Cuban sugar than to try to expand the expensive sugar beet industry. Likewise there were many things that Cuba needed to buy from the U. S.

Indicating publicly what has privately been taken for granted for some time, Castro hinted strongly that the Soviet Union had been counseling a bettering of relations with the U. S.

Castro said that at present "the most delicate and grave problem between Cuba and the U. S." was the overflights by U-2 planes.

"In my opinion," he said, "the U. S. people are far from the world and its problems. In the U. S. you had a quiet life, except for the Civil War, and you haven't faced what the rest of the world has."

"You are a people that emphasizes work and technical progress. But you don't emphasize social and historical problems, or the political ideas of the world. So it's hard for the U. S. to understand the Cuban revolution," Castro said.