

P.A. 4/19/64

Castro Wants an Easing Toward U.S.-Cuba Ties

NEW YORK, April 19 (AP) Fidel Castro said in an interview broadcast tonight that he believed both the United States and Cuba should make concessions toward restoring normal relations.

Castro said once he had felt that President Kennedy "was in the way of persuading himself of his mistakes about Cuba," and that some sort of change in U.S. policy had been in the making. He indicated Cuba was watching and waiting with regard to President Johnson's Administration.

Castro's interview with Lisa Howard of the American Broadcasting Co. was recorded in Havana Feb. 12 and appeared as part of a documentary.

Sensed 'Some Change'

Mr. Kennedy, after three years as President of the United States, had much more experience than he had at the beginning," the Cuban premier said. "... my opinion is that he was in the way of persuading himself of his mistakes about Cuba... I do not want to make a speculation about that. But I had some evidence



FIDEL CASTRO

that some change was taking place in the mind of the Government of the United States."

Castro said the Cubans "do not know Johnson's thinking (and) are observing what he is going to do about Cuba."

"You ask me what we are

willing to concede," he added. "I think some concessions ought to be made by both parties, for the United States and for Cuba. I think a peace policy means mutual concessions, dignity."

Castro did not elaborate on what concessions he thought should be made by either side.

Won't Be Pinned Down

The Cuban leader declined to be pinned down on his position in the world Communist argument produced by the Chinese-Soviet split. He said he thought the problem sooner or later would be solved and "of course, this is not the place where I have to give my opinion about that problem."

"The Cuban opinion will be given at the proper opportunity, at some conference of the parties," he added.