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Castro Says U.S. Made Concessions in '62 Crisis

But Won't Reveal Assurances He Contends He Received

During the 1962 crisis over Soviet missiles in Cuba, the United States made concessions that have never been made public, Premier Fidel Castro said in an interview published yesterday.

The Cuban leader is quoted in a copyrighted article in Playboy magazine as maintaining that there were agreements "about which not a word has ever been said." But he declined to specify what was involved.

"One day, perhaps," he remarked, "it will be known that the United States made some other concessions in relation to the October crisis besides those that were made public."

"It was not an agreement in accordance with protocol," he said. "It was an agreement that took place by letter and through diplomatic contacts."

The only concessions by the United States made known at the time of the crisis were an assurance that the United States would not invade Cuba and the lifting of the naval blockade.

The State Department made no immediate comment on the Castro statement.

Playboy said it was publishing the interview, which covered a wide range of subjects, on the ground that it could "do much to clarify the thoughts and actions at work behind the Cuban curtain."

Article Part of a Book

The magazine said the interview was conducted at the Premier's home by Lee Lockwood, identified as an author-journalist, who is preparing a book, "Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel," for publication by Macmillan in March.

"Lounging at a card table on



Magnum

Premier Fidel Castro

the veranda in his green fatigues, wearing socks but no boots, his hair matted, and smoking a succession of long Cuban cigars, the Cuban dictator spoke with Lockwood volubly and inexhaustibly—often through the night and into the dawn," Playboy said. "At the end of a week, their conversations (conducted in Spanish) had filled nearly 25 hours of tape."

Asked if he could "state unequivocally" that there were no offensive ground-to-ground nuclear missiles in Cuba now, Premier Castro replied that he had "no objection to declaring that those weapons do not exist in Cuba." He added, "Unfortunately, there are none."

The Cuban Premier assailed the Soviet Union for removing these missiles under United States pressure and noted that

Playboy Magazine Interview Criticizes Soviet on Missiles

Cuba was left out of the discussions at the time.

Complaining that Premier Khrushchev had acted in a high-handed manner toward Cuba, he said the Khrushchev actions in the missile crisis represented "a serious affront" to Cuba that resulted in a "climate of distrust" between Havana and Moscow.

However, he added, Soviet-Cuban relations have "improved considerably" since the Khrushchev leadership ended.

Tells of Restraint

Premier Castro observed that his regime had refrained from using Soviet-supplied ground-to-air missiles to shoot down American U-2 reconnaissance planes over Cuba "because we don't want to appear in any way as provocateurs."

"When those projectiles were turned over to Cuba by the U.S.S.R.," he said, "we made a pledge not to use them except in case of strict necessity, for defense of the country in case of aggression."

He voiced the view that the United States might launch a future attack against Cuba.

"We don't expect an invasion at any specific place or date," he went on, "but we are conscious that a very real threat from the United States will always exist. For that reason, we see ourselves required to stay on guard, to devote much of our energy and resources to strengthening our defenses."

The Premier said the Central Intelligence Agency had never ceased hostile activities against Cuba.

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