

Post 12/2/66

Castro Hints Of '62 Secret U.S. Terms

By Nicholas Daniloff
United Press International

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro claimed in a report published yesterday that the United States made several secret concessions to solve the Cuban missile crisis in the fall of 1962.

However, in a wide-ranging interview with Playboy magazine, he declined to discuss them. He said that perhaps one day they would be made public.

The State Department had no immediate comment on Castro's disclosure.

In the 20-page verbatim transcript, the voluble Cuban also:

- * Asserted that his former Peking-oriented Finance Minister Ernesto (Che) Guevara was still alive at some undisclosed location.

- * Declared that no ground-to-ground nuclear missiles remain in Cuba "unfortunately"—contrary to unverified reports by Cuban refugee organizations.

- * Criticized the conduct of former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev in the Cuban crisis, and said that his decision to remove strategic missiles in return for an American non-invasion pledge brought "distrust" into Cuba's relations with Russia.

- * Said he would like to re-

tire as Cuban Communist Party leader "in the least amount of time possible" to devote himself to study and the promotion of agriculture.

Castro made these statements in a lengthy conversation with American writer Lee Lockwood, whom Playboy had commissioned for the article. The magazine said that the interview, conducted over several days, amounted to nearly 25 hours on tape.

Castro said it was "indisputable" that the U.S.-Soviet agreement that ended the perilous confrontation at the end of 1962 in the Caribbean had been honored.

But he tantalizingly added:

"... I can say to you that even more agreements exist besides, about which not a word has ever been said.

"However, I don't think this is the occasion to speak about them. I am not writing my memoirs; I am a Prime Minister in active service.

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