

Javits and Pell Fly to Cuba Despite Objections of U.S.

Weekend Visit, With Approval of Castro, Accents Study in Washington of Possible Resumption of Ties

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—Two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee flew to Havana today with the approval of Premier Fidel Castro but against the expressed wishes of the State Department.

Senators Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island, left separately—and secretly—to avoid hostile demonstrations by Cuban refugees in the United States. They plan to return Monday.

Their trip accented the cautious United States flirtation with the idea of resuming economic and diplomatic relations with Cuba. But a State Department official said the department disapproved of the trip.

It also expressed disapproval

with the first such step—a visit to Cuba last summer by Pat M. Holt, chief of staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, at the suggestion of Chairman J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas.

The Senators were preceded by a chartered plane full of reporters and photographers whose visas had been approved by Mr. Castro—and who also received only apparently grudging permission from Washington.

The two Senators were understood to have thought about the trip for some time. Aides said they had received a go-ahead from Havana when the Cuban Government was approached earlier this year.

The Senators could have gone

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without passports, but aides said they preferred to have the State Department officially validate them for travel to Cuba. Travel by United States citizens to Cuba is normally forbidden.

The aides said that several times in the last six weeks the Senators had been prepared to go quietly for a weekend visit, but each time Secretary of State Kissinger or top aides of his had asked them to hold off in the national interest.

When word of this leaked to the press earlier this month, the Senators' passports were validated within 24 hours.

Mr. Javits's office quoted him as having said that the Senators expected to meet Premier Castro and other high officials for talks to "determine whether the time is ready for a reversal of United States policy respecting Cuba."

When Mr. Holt returned from his visit, he told the committee that the Cubans were on the verge of making their economy work with the help of massive Soviet aid and the rise in world commodity prices.

Mr. Holt also said it was obvious that the United States policy of economic isolation of Cuba had failed. He recommended that it be re-examined.

Since 1962, the United States has led an economic boycott of

Cuba. The Organization of American States is expected to lift that boycott when it meets in Ecuador in November.

In his first news conference, President Ford said United States policy would be in concert with that of the other members of the Organization of American States.