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## Castro Sees Hope for Better U.S. Ties

By DAVID BIRD

Premier Fidel Castro has said that he sees "positive" hope for closer relations between Cuba and the United States because President Ford "is not involved with the Cuban counter-revolutionary elements."

In the interview given earlier this month and scheduled to be broadcast tonight by CBS television the Cuban leader said former President Richard M. Nixon had been "the principal obstacle to any change in the policy towards Cuba."

Mr. Castro said Mr. Nixon "was personally very much involved with [counter-revolutionary elements]. And we have seen in Ford a man who is above this."

The Cuban leader has previously criticized Mr. Nixon's attitude toward Cuba, but his warmer view of President Ford is a change.

As recently as last month, Mr. Castro sharply condemned United States intervention in Chile during the presidency of Salvador Allende Gossens. He said it was "stupefying" to him that President Ford would publicly support the actions of the Central Intelligence Agency in Chile as he did in a news conference on Sept. 16.

Premier Castro expressed particular bitterness over what he described as Mr. Nixon's role in the Bay of Pigs invasion, in which a force of about 1,400 Cuban exiles trained by the United States landed in Cuba on April 17, 1961, in an attempt to overthrow the Castro leadership.

The invasion was planned during the Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower although it did not take place until John F. Kennedy was in the White House.

Premier Castro said that Mr. Nixon, then Vice President, had proposed to President Eisenhower that United States armed forces be used to bolster the force that would invade Cuba.

He added that Mr. Nixon later proposed to President Kennedy that the United States armed forces be used against Cuba during the invasion.

"This was Nixon's advice," Premier Castro said. "Kennedy did not take it. It should not be forgotten that Kennedy had taken a courageous stand in those days, when everyone was blaming each other. He said that success had many fathers, but defeat is an orphan. And he assumed the responsibility for all that happened. Of course, this was undoubtedly a courageous stand on his part."

The invasion went ahead without direct support of the United States armed forces and was defeated.

"From the Cuban point of view," Premier Castro said, "we see Ford with a certain hope in the sense that he may after all adopt a different policy toward Cuba, and that at least he does not have the personal involvement that Nixon had in this regard."

Mr. Castro did not see any problem in the fact that Secretary of State Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's principal foreign policy adviser, retained the same role with President Ford.

"I do not believe that Kissinger has a personal position that is hostile toward Cuba," the Cuban leader said. "I believe that he is no doubt the most realistic politician and has made the greatest effort to find a solution to the cold war problems in recent years in the United States."

Mr. Castro posed only one condition before discussions between Cuba and the United States could begin—that the United States lift its economic blockade of Cuba.

"Once the blockade ends," the Premier said, "then we can start discussing all the other problems."

Another problem raised by Mr. Castro was the United States naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Eastern Cuba.

### Base No Obstacle to Talks

"Guantanamo is a piece of the national territory of Cuba," he said. "It is occupied by the United States, but we do not say that in order to start discussions they must withdraw from Guantanamo; rather we have posed a single condition: that the economic blockade be stopped."

"One day the social systems of Cuba and the United States will meet — when the U.S. changes its social regime," Mr. Castro said. But he did not see that day coming soon.

Premier Castro voiced praise of the Soviet Union and its aid to Cuba.

He contrasted Cuba's relations with the Soviet Union with with country's former ties to the United States.

In earlier days he said, American interests owned mines, power plants and industries. "In a few words, they owned the Cuban economy," he said.

"The Soviets do not own a single mine in Cuba, not a single factory, not a single sugar mill, not one hectare of land, not a single bank, not a single business, not a single utility," the Premier declared.

An additional article on the Castro interview appears on the television page.