

Chronicle  
**Castro's Second Thoughts on Missile Crisis**

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Premier Fidel Castro acknowledged he was wrong in residing in removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba in 1962, Senator George McGovern (Dem-S.D.), said yesterday.

"If my position had prevailed," McGovern quoted Castro as saying, "there might have been a terrible war. I was wrong."

The quotation was recorded in a report by McGovern to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on nine hours of conversation with Castro during a May visit to Cuba.

On the Cuban missile crisis, McGovern said Castro told him:

"I would have taken a harder line than (Soviet leader Nikita) Khrushchev. I was furious when he compromised. But Khrushchev

was older and wiser. I realize in retrospect that he reached the proper settlement with Kennedy."

McGovern said Castro and Vice Premier Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told him "they were aware of the CIA efforts to assassinate them — as many as a hundred attempts, they said, — as many as a hundred attempts, they said, although not all were attributed to the CIA."

But McGovern added, "apparently he has no real fear of such plots now," and he moves easily among the Cuban people.

McGovern recommended in his report that the United States end its trade embargo against Cuba and "explicitly acknowledge an interest" in establishing normal diplomatic relations.

Associated Press