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GOP Call to Normalize Cuba Ties

Washington

A group of 12 House Republicans yesterday called on the administration to take immediate steps to renew normal diplomatic relations with Cuba.

But administration officials said they foresaw no immediate change in U.S. policy toward Cuba, last stated by President Nixon shortly after his election when he said: "There will be no change . . . in our policy toward Cuba" until Fidel Castro "changes his policy toward Latin America."

Representative Charles Whalen (Rep-Ohio), a spokesman for the 12 GOP House members, said "the time is ripe to take appropriate steps to normalize relations with Cuba."

Whalen said the group recognized major issues, including the future of Guantanamo Naval Base, compensation for expropriated

U.S. holdings, the Cuban Sugar quota and the question of Cuban refugees would have to be negotiated before relations could be renewed.

United Press

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