

Cautious Reply to Cuban Overtures

Washington

The U.S. expressed cautious interest yesterday over reports that Cuba might want to end the 13-year diplomatic estrangement between the two countries.

"We are not dismissing them. We will weigh everything," State Department spokesman George Vest said after statements Monday by Cuba's ambassador to Mexico, Fernando Lopez Muine, that Cuba is willing to begin talks with the United States on renewing diplomatic rela-

tions as soon as Washington lifts its 12-year-old economic blockade of Cuba.

Vest said, however, that he would not want to "jump to the conclusion" that Lopez' statements constituted a significant change in Cuban policy.

He referred reporters to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's news conference two weeks ago in which he said "the major obstacle to rapprochement has been the hostility of the government of Cuba and its commitment

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