

Castro's Views On U.S. and Cuba

Washington

Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba envisions a resumption of normal relations with the United States, and he has told two American interviewers the sequence he has in mind, covering such details as trade and tourism.

"He has obviously given the matter a great deal of thought," said Frank F. Mankiewicz, who, along with Kirby Jones spent a total of 25 hours with Castro between July 17 and 20.

Mankiewicz, director of Senator George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign and now chief of the National Executive Conference, said Castro had impressed him as being "less hostile" to the United States.

Pat M. Holt, chief of staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who also met Castro and toured Cuba in July, released a report yesterday in which he concluded "that Cubans would welcome better relations with the United States."

A specialist in Latin-American affairs for many years, Holt also concluded "that the U.S. policy of isolating Cuba has been a failure."

He proposed that the State Department cease restricting travel by Americans to Cuba and relax restrictions on Cuban diplomats at the United Nations, who are confined to New York City. Holt called the latter "cruel and unusual punishment."

Mankiewicz said there was "more to the problem" of re-establishing relations between Havana and Washington than Castro's demand that the U.S. lift its 12-year-old trade embargo against Cuba. Washington

broke diplomatic ties with Cuba in 1961.

He quoted Castro as having remarked that American policy made him think, "It's as though Cuba is the only country in the world toward which the American Secretary of State is still John Foster Dulles."

Mankiewicz released two pieces of lengthy text concerning East-West detente and the significance of the 1973 Havana-Washington agreement on curbing of airline hijacking.

On the pact with Washington Castro said:

"We took an important step when we signed the hijacking agreement. The determining factor that led us to sign the agreement was really a concern for international public opinion — for the people of the United States, and it was done in a favorable spirit in an attempt to solve a serious problem."

Mankiewicz said other portions of the interviews covered topics such as Castro's reflections on the 1961 invasion of Cuba by U.S. supported Cuban exiles and the 1962 crisis that developed when the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba.

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