

Castro Talks Of Changes Under Ford

Panama City.

Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro expressed the hope yesterday that "some changes" in U.S.-Cuban relations may emanate from the administration of President Ford.

Castro made the remark in answer to a question by Mario Velazquez, news director of Televisora Nacional of Panama, who traveled to Cuba last week for the renewal of Cuban-Panamanian relations.

Castro said former President Nixon had close ties with Cuban exile groups in the United States which promoted a policy "of intransigence and hatred" toward Cuba.

"Nixon was very close to all that counter-revolutionary Mafia," Castro said. "Nixon has business with them; He received money from them for his political campaigns and even for personal activities."

The Cuban leader called the participants in the Watergate break-in "Cuban mercenaries who had been trained by the CIA in subversive and counter-revolutionary activities."

"I even think he (Mr. Nixon) had a counter-revolutionary cook," Castro said.

With the inauguration of President Ford, Castro said:

"We don't believe this situation exists at this time. And of course this can facilitate the development of that current... in favor of reviewing that policy of aggression and blockade against our country."

United Press