

Castro's Praise for Carter

Washington

Fidel Castro says he favors the re-election of President Carter, "an honest man" whose foreign policy decisions have been influenced by the dangerous "adventurism" of national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

In an interview yesterday on ABC's "Issues and Answers" program, Cuba's president once again denied charges that his country aided Katangese rebels who invaded Zaire. In a countercharge, he accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency of interfering with Angola's internal affairs.

"If you asked me, I would wish that Carter be re-elected president of the United States," Castro volunteered at one point in the interview conducted Friday in Cuba.

Carter "is the only president in the last 20 years to have had some positive gestures toward us," he said.

Castro said former California Governor Ronald Reagan was "the most reactionary thing we know of," and former President Gerald Ford and his secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, "were characterized as being anti-Cuba."

He said he had "no prejudice" against Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), but prefers Carter be-

cause he "made proper gestures toward Cuba."

Carter "is a man of conviction ... He is an honest man," Castro said. "I believe that these difficulties of the first stage can be really due somewhat to a lack of experience."

He said Brzezinski, on the other hand, has "dangerous" international politics.

"Brzezinski favors mixing things as important as strategic arms negotiations with problems of a different type, secondary problems and problems of Africa," he said.

"Brzezinski is clearly in favor of using China as an instrument of pressure against the Soviet Union and I would believe that is a very dangerous and serious policy."

Castro once again denounced as a "total lie" U.S. accusations that Cuban support for the Katangan rebels who invaded Zaire.

"We simply because of political reasons, have abstained ourselves from using the Katangans against Zaire," he said.

He accused the United States of taking steps to interfere covertly in Angola's internal affairs.

"We know from very good sources that recently the CIA estab-

lished contact from UNITA in Angola and admitted the United States assistance — promised U.S. assistance," he said.

UNITA stands for National Union for Total Independence of Angola, a pro-Western guerrilla movement in Marxist Angola.

"I want to ask the U.S. government if it is a true point that that commitment was made, because this constitutes a very serious interference in Angola's interior affairs," he said.

He did not dispute the presence of large numbers of Cuban troops in Africa, but said CIA estimates of more than 40,000 were exaggerated.

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