

Cubans

# Miami Refugees Seem Resigned To Renewal of US.-Cuban Ties

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, Oct. 6—Cuban refugees in the Miami area appear to have resigned themselves to what a few years ago most of them regarded as unthinkable: the resumption of United States-Cuban relations.

From a series of interviews with representative members of the Miami exile community, which numbers some 400,000, two-thirds of the country's total, the following general refugee viewpoints have also emerged:

Most hope that the Ford Administration and Congress, emulating their concern for Soviet Jews, will press Havana to release and expatriate political prisoners now in Cuban jails.

Very few Cubans here would return to live in their homeland even if that were possible.

Virtually all of several dozen Cubans interviewed would like to visit Cuba either to see their relatives or just their country, which they have not seen for 10 years or more.

Most feel that the Cuban Government, once it opens its doors to foreign visitors, might become more liberal internally.

Some segments of the exile community, especially young refugees brought up and educated here, are not interested in the Cuban issues.

### 'An Accomplished Fact'

The resumption of relations with Havana is an accomplished fact and everyone here knows it," said Edgar Sopo. The statement of Mr. Sopo was significant because the 38-year-old businessman was a prominent member of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion brigade and a participant in several clandestine operations against Cuba and because he represents a militant anti-Castro segment of the exile community.

"We cannot renounce the idea of a free and democratic Cuba," Mr. Sopo said, "but the re-establishment of relations is now inevitable and we have to view it from a human point of view. For the first time there will be a possibility for many of us to see our families over there."

"Everyone here says the Washington-Havana deal is cut and dried, and we can do nothing to prevent it," said Esteban Lamela, a television reporter. "It has become obvious to most exiles that United States policy toward Cuba is made in Washington and not in Miami."

During the Nixon Administration, State Department officials used to cite the supposed political strength of the exile community as a reason for lack of interest in a rapprochement with Cuba. Observers here have long regarded this explanation as unfounded. In recent

local elections, all Cuban-born candidates were soundly defeated.

While one exile, who asked not to be quoted by name, said that "somehow we will continue to fight the Cuban regime," a group supporting the re-establishment of relations with Cuba made its first public statement here last week.

Called "Cuban Christians for Justice and Liberty," the group, headed by several Protestant priests, said that an American embargo on Cuban goods "has affected the Cuban people without weakening the Castro regime."

### 'Fidel Is Unpredictable'

One Cuban, who opposed United States-Cuban relations, said that Washington seemed more eager to talk to Havana than Havana was to talk to Washington. "It still might not come off, because Fidel is unpredictable," he said. As in Cuba, in Miami Premier Castro is referred to by his first name.

Few exiles would concede it publicly, but Mr. Castro is regarded here with a degree of respect. Last week there were even expressions of admiration for Mr. Castro's handling of Senators Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island was much criticized here.

"Fidel has put the two Senators in their places," one refugee said. "They went to Havana to get political mileage out of him, but Fidel showed them that he's the boss and that he will talk business only with President Ford or Secretary Kissinger."