
SFChronicle MAR 7 1977

Castro Felt Betrayed By Nixon

Havana

Fidel Castro feels he can pinpoint the actual moment when U.S.-Cuba relations started to disintegrate: April 19, 1959, when he went to Capitol Hill, after having appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," to visit then-Vice President Nixon.

He said he had thought the conversation interesting; Nixon had listened politely, even sympathetically. They talked for two hours and 20 minutes, and after the meeting the two emerged and Nixon said, "We will work with you."

But Castro is convinced that after the visit, Nixon wrote a long memo bitterly critical of Castro and Cuba, and recommending what later became the Bay of Pigs invasion. He blames Nixon and Eisenhower for that ill-fated invasion, far more than he blames President Kennedy, who executed it.

Washington Post
