Exploring Ties With Cuba

Sens. Jacob Javits (R., N. Y.) and Claiborne Pell (D., R. I.) showed courage in visiting Cuban Premier Fidel Castro over the opposition of the State Department and Cuban refugee groups. And while their reception in Cuba was somewhat mixed, their mission was an exploratory one that may benefit U. S. interests in Latin America.

The visit was one of several diplomatic moves leading to the possible resumption of ties with Cuba. With the fading of the cold war, such restoration becomes ever more possible, if Cuba desires it, and broad support is already developing in the Organization of American States for an end to the diplomatic and economic quarantine of Cuba by the OAS. With the change of administration in Washington, such a policy review is more easily undertaken, and the Javits-Pell mission assists in this whole process.

The senators had a "frank and friendly" talk with Castro and concluded that the premier was interested in normalizing relations with the U. S. If so, Castro certainly had a strange way of showing it. One would have expected him to tone down his anti-U. S. propaganda during this period of diplomatic maneuvering — and especially at a time when two United States senators were visiting in Havana. Yet almost the first thing the senators did on arriving there was to watch an hour-long anti-American speech by Castro on television.

This obviously calculated rudeness was strange diplomacy, but Castro was apparently quite friendly the next day when he met the senators and American newsmen. "It was a traditional anti-American speech he makes on every important occasion," Sen. Javits commented, noting that it was the purpose of his visit to find out if anything could be done to alter this underlying hostility toward the U. S.

It should be noted, too, that much of Castro's anti-U. S. speech appealed to nationalist feelings in much the same way as the harangues of other Latin American leaders. He denounced the CIA meddling in Chile (unfortunately, the U. S. left itself wide open on that one), and he clearly praised Venezuela, one of the nations seeking to restore ties with Cuba, for opposing U. S. oil "imperialism."

Whatever the U. S. does, the end of the OAS boycott of Cuba seems not far away. At least 16 of the 23 OAS members now favor ending the sanctions against Cuba when the OAS meets in Ecuador in November. The U. S. has rightly tried to get OAS members to agree on a concerted line of action. At the same time, it has insisted that the ties with Cuba should not be restored until Cuba alters its hostile attitude and ends its export of revolution throughout Latin America.

The bearded dictator's export of revolution was a flop from the first, but it remains to be seen whether Castro's hostility will be a serious barrier. The U. S. doesn't have to love him to have dealings with him, but it does have the right to insist upon ordinary diplomatic civility. There is no reason in the world why we should set ourselves up as straight- men for his outbursts of violent anti-Americanism. If Castro is going to use every diplomatic overture looking toward a resumption of relations as an excuse to show off how much he hates and despises us, he can forget it.
Group, one of several area clubs for single persons, met at Fireside Episcopal Church for a full program and a coffee hour. Week-ends, bike hikes, bowling, and skating parties.

"But you get something more Fireside. Nothing ever worse of meeting people at the ears. Conversation is superficial. At Fireside, it's deeper.

Inc., whose members range from 40 to 70, thinks it has the answer. As well as the meetings, speakers and demonstrations that gather in various member's homes throughout the month, that are the bulwark of PWP's adult social program, according to William Dein, a spokesman for the group.

Discussion topics range from auto repair to child rearing. But more importantly they afford that large group a chance to break down into smaller groups and speak face to face.