

The Cornell Daily Sun

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Ike Terminates Ties with Cuba [ARTICLE]

Cornell Daily Sun, Volume LXXVII, Issue 66, 4 January 1961, Page 1

Ike Terminates Ties With Cuba

Washington (AP) — The United States Tuesday night broke off diplomatic relations with the Cuban government of Fidel Castro.

President Eisenhower at 8:30 p.m. EST issued a statement saying "there is a limit to what the United States in self respect can endure. That limit has now been reached."

The United States has asked Switzerland to handle all its diplomatic and consular duties in Cuba.

Eisenhower gave as his reason the ultimatum delivered by Cuba this morning which demanded that the United States limit the personnel in its embassy and consulate in Havana to 11 persons.

James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, declined to answer any questions about what the United States intends to do with the naval base it operates in Guantanamo, Cuba.

He was asked whether the United States still intends to defend the base by force if necessary against any attack by Castro.

He also was asked whether the United States intended to keep its naval personnel at the base.

To both questions Hagerty said he could not go beyond the President's statement, which did not mention Guantanamo.

This country has maintained that its rights to the base are guaranteed by a treaty of long standing.

U. S.-Cuban relations have been deteriorating steadily since Castro's accession to power two years ago, when his revolution overthrew the regime of Fulgencio

Batista.

Castro ordered the U. S. Embassy staff cut to 11, declaring that the embassy harbored spies directing counterrevolutionary activities. The staff has recently numbered 87, having been cut in the past six months from about 120.

Castro's action was a followup to his charges last weekend that President Eisenhower had ordered U. S. Marines to invade Cuba before Jan. 18. Castro-controlled newspapers said the Cuban government had learned of such a plot from reliable sources.

Havana (AP)—The U. S. diplomatic break with Fidel Castro's regime brought this terse comment from the bearded prime minister Tuesday night: "Cuba is alert."

Castro made the comment to a reporter as he emerged from the presidential palace where he attended a reception for visiting foreign delegations.

Asked if he knew the United States had broken diplomatic relations with Cuba, Castro replied, "Yes."

Asked for comment, he said: "I don't have to comment. Cuba is alert."

Then he sped off to an undisclosed destination with Capt. Antonio Nunez Jimenez, chief of the Cuban Agrarian Reform Institute.

A U. S. Embassy spokesman said meanwhile that every effort would be made to keep a caretaker force on hand for an indefinite time in order to clean up pending embassy affairs.

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