

Better Castro Relations Seen Doubtful in U. S.

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Authoritative United States sources expressed doubt today that Fidel Castro's freeing of the Cuban invasion prisoners will improve relations between Washington and his Communist Havana regime.

They said Mr. Castro has shown no indication of abandoning policies unacceptable to the United States—his Kremlin ties and efforts to subvert the Americas.

They expect therefore a renewal of United States and hemisphere pressures, short of invasion, to topple the bearded Prime Minister.

The successful outcome of the lengthy, Government-backed negotiations to win release of the prisoners-delighted persons high in the Kennedy administration.

Both Success, Failure

It was understood that in the unreleased portion of his television interview a week ago, President Kennedy listed Cuba as both his greatest success and his greatest failure since taking office.

The results of the encounter with the Soviets over offensive weapons in Cuba ranks as a success, in the administration view. The abortive 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion is rated a failure, and Mr. Kennedy is known to have felt deep moral re-

sponsibility for the captured invaders.

Under this line of reasoning, the freeing of the prisoners did much to atone for the 1961 mistake. And administration sources feel that for all practical purposes it closed the chapter on the unfortunate affair.

Some domestic critics seem likely to take a different view. There have been complaints against the \$53-million "ransom" and the Government's role in the deal.

Condition of Prisoners

A number of Washington officials noted with surprise the physical condition of the captives as they arrived in Florida. News reports indicated the prisoners were in reasonably good health although somewhat underfed.

This differed from the stark picture of starvation and disease which had been fed to United States intelligence by anti-Castro Cubans. Some United States officials here had told reporters the prisoners were in such bad shape they might not last much longer if not freed by Christmas.

United States authorities have had difficulty with intelligence on Cuba before. Prior to the 1961 invasion there was optimism, not borne out, that the invaders would quickly touch off an anti-Castro uprising. Combat ability of the Castro forces apparently was grossly underrated.

This year there have been conflicting reports on the amount and type of Soviet military presence in Cuba.