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CONFRONTATION IN CUBA — Cyrus S. Eaton appears to be making a point with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Photo was taken by Norman R. Comiskey, Eaton's assistant.

Eaton Says Castro Aided by U.S. Policy

By JOHN CLARK

The abortive Bay of Pigs invasion and the U.S. role in Vietnam have been "breaks" for Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, Cleveland industrialist Cyrus S. Eaton said yesterday.

Castro's propaganda use of these affairs has solidified his support among the Cuban masses, Eaton said.

Home at Acadia Farms, Northfield, after five "very crowded days" in Cuba, Eaton spoke of children rushing to shake Castro's hand when the premier and Eaton were riding in a jeep, and of his volunteer coffee tree planters applauding from trucks and buses when they sighted the bearded leader.

"AS FAR AS the masses are concerned, his popularity has been sustained by his opposition to our policy in Vietnam," Eaton said in an exclusive interview with The Plain Dealer.

"He points to Vietnam as an example of what to expect from America toward a small nation that goes Communist."

Castro, Eaton said, "is the complete boss of Cuba. He is a bold and clever man and he has had some phenomenal breaks, such as the Bay of Pigs and Vietnam. He is also, in my opinion, the most energetic and strenuous statesman in the world."

EATON, whose dedication to coexistence between communism and capitalism has taken him behind the Iron Curtain and earned the apparent confidence of Soviet leaders, said last week's trip was his first to Cuba since 1958, two years before the Castro-led revolution.

He said that a Supreme Court decision two months ago that Americans traveling to "off-limits" countries need not surrender their passports made the journey

possible. He flew to Cuba on a Cuban airliner from Mexico and returned via the Bahama Islands, using Cuban and British airliners.

"Now that the restriction has been ruled out by the Supreme Court, I believe many more Americans will go to Cuba," Eaton said. A snag, he said, is that when Americans do visit a country their government does not recognize, "you are on your own if you get into any trouble."

EATON said the primary reason for his visit was to assess agricultural progress in Cuba. He explained that in line with Castro's drive to make the island self-sufficient and an exporter, Cuba is conducting massive artificial insemination of cattle (with the help of a prize \$100,000 Canadian bull) and breeding experiments, such as one that may produce sheep that will provide less wool and more mutton and milk.