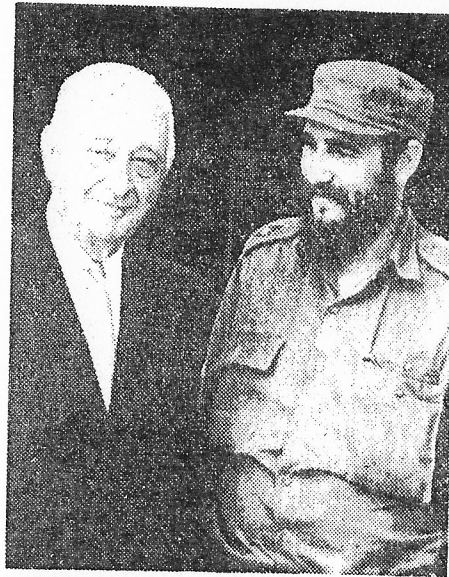


Not to be reproduced without written permission of the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 E. Blvd., Cleveland OH 44106. This material may be protected by Copyright Law, Title 17, U.S. Code.

The Cleveland Press

The Newspaper That Serves Its Readers

Monday, May 13, 1968



EATON IN CUBA—Cyrus Eaton, capitalist, and Premier Fidel Castro were photographed last week in Havana by Eaton's assistant, Norman Comiskey.

By **JOE COLLIER**

All top diplomats of Western and Communist countries stationed in Cuba express belief that the Paris peace talks are undertaken in good faith by both parties, Cyrus Eaton reported today.

Back from a five-day visit to Cuba as the invited guest of Premier Fidel Castro, Eaton said that these ambassadors are among the most experienced in the world and that all voiced hope that the U. S. and its allies and North Vietnam will end the war.

Envoys in Cuba See Hope in Viet Talks, Says Eaton

These include, Eaton said, Ambassador Ngo Mau (pronounced No Mo) of North Vietnam, who entertained Eaton last Thursday morning, serving a native pink wine, preserved fruits and cookies.

"HE IS A FINE-LOOKING man, very courteous and one I would not try to bamboozle," Eaton said. "He said to me that all of the North Vietnamese who were anxious to develop peace, including him, were concerned by President Johnson's public promise to keep all commitments in Southeast Asia.

"He said, 'Our people don't understand starting peace talks with that kind of ultimatum.'"

Eaton, accompanied by his assistant, Norman Comiskey, lived as the premier's guests in a government mansion which was well staffed and had excellent cooks, he said.

HE AND COMISKEY spent large parts of two days with Castro who personally drove them about in a Russian-made jeep to show progress and explain plans for agricultural development.

A worldly capitalist, Eaton expressed intense sorrow that our allies and the Soviet industrial countries are getting all Cuban business, which he says is considerable.

"The Canadians have sold wheat and about 1,000 prize bulls to Cuba, including the \$100,000 American grand champion Holstein. Through artificial insemination, he will father about 10,000 calves a year.

"**THE RUSSIANS ARE** mechanizing the island's agriculture, which is scientifically developing animal husbandry and all unused land and hopes to improve sugar cane, raise coffee, pineapples, grapefruit and oranges.

"The English have extended \$100,000,000 credit to build roads and buildings; the French have extended \$100,000,000, are selling power plants, and are expected to extend more credit for computers."

Educational improvements are well advanced, he said, with school compulsory. The agriculture phase is well underway. After 1970 Cuba will turn to industrialization.

"And by 1970 the Cubans hope to have free food, free homes, free gasoline—everything—for the people."

EATON SAID HE ISN'T sure how that will work out, but said Castro is the most dedicated socialist he has yet encountered.

Judging from street applause when Castro drove past, Eaton said the people are strongly in support of their hero. The Bay of Pigs intensified his popularity and the Vietnam War has intensified the unpopularity of the U. S., Eaton said.

Eaton said it was his impression, checked in conversations with ambassadors from Russia, England, France, Canada, Czechoslovakia and others, that Cuba is making steady progress and bearing austerity well.