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THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT HERE IN CUBA TO SENATOR WILLIAM FULLBRIGHTS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD INTRODUCE LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS TO RELAX THE TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA. HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO HAS MADE IT CLEAR SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE PAST YEAR THAT THE UNCONDITIONAL ELIMINATION OF THE TRADE EMBARGO BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE A NECESSARY FIRST STEP FOR ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE RECENTLY TOLD A REPORTER HERE THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT AND PERSONALLY WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IF THE UNITED STATES DROPS THE EMBARGO.

FULLBRIGHT MADE HIS PROPOSAL AFTER HERENG FROM THE FOREIGN RELATION COMMITTEES CHIEF OF STAFF, PAT HOLT WHO [recently] VISITED CUBA ~~SEVERAL WEEKS AGO~~. AND CONVERSED WITH FIDEL CASTRO. OBSERVERS HERE CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT MR HOLT WAS GIVEN STATE DEPARTMENT PERMISSION TO VISIT CUBA. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS KNOWN TO HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE PERMISSION IN THE PAST FOR THE VISIT TO CUBA OF A FACT FINDER FOR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

MR. HOLTS COMMENT THAT THE TRADE EMBARGO [AGAINST CUBA] HAS BEEN A "FAILURE" IS SOMETHING THAT THE CUBANS THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME. THEY POINT TO THE FACT THAT CUBA TODAY TRADES WITH MOST NATIONS OF THE WORLD. IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE ALONE WHERE ONLY MEXICO AND CANADA REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH THE TRADE EMBARGO, THERE ARE NOW SEVERAL [MORE] COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA * PANAMA, PERU, ARGENTINA

Senator William Fullbright Anoonced He Would Introduce Legistation in Congress To Relax Trade Embargo Against Cuba

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AND THE ENGLISH SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE CARRIBEAN AREA. IT IS EXPECTED THAT VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA WILL JOIN THOSE NATIONS SOON IN NORMALIZING ~~ITS~~ THEIR RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

THIS IS LIONEL MARTIN IN HAVANA FOR CBC RADIO NEWS.