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politics

havana, jan 30, reuter -- a canadian member of parliament who met with cuban president fidel castro on friday said that +castro handed us cuban caramels as an answer to ronald reagan's jelly beans.+

the parliamentarian is part of an eight member fact-finding commission from the house of commons who met with the cuban president for two and a half hours in castro's offices at the state council building here.

the parliamentarian explained that castro was a +gracious host+ . he passed cigars around and made pina-coladas - a drink made from pineapple juice, coconut milk and rum -- for the mp's.

maurice dupras, the head of the parliamentary delegation commented that president reagan hands out jelly beans.

+what are jelly beans?+, castro asked.

when the parliamentarian answer was translated, the bearded cuban president brought out a box of made-in-cyba caramels and passed them around -- in answer to ronald reagan's jelly beans.+

the eight parliamentarians are scheduled to fly back to canada sunday on a canadian air force plane.

one mp wondered aloud if they would be sent north with boxes of cuban caramels - a gift from fidel castro.

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