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* Headline (see below)

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Fidel Castro declared that if the United States wants to buy sugar from Cuba tomorrow, it could be done. Castro told reporters that from the Cuban standpoint nothing stands in the way: We have the sugar, said Castro, we have the ships, we don't have any law against selling sugar to the United States nor any general economic embargo like the United States imposes on Cuba.

Castro declared that the U.S. embargo against Cuba has became a luxury, an expensive sport, to the U.S. and United States buyers are paying too much for sugar, he said and added. Cuba is only hours away from US shores and sugar could be shipped quickly.

When asked if he thought there was a real possibility that the United States would allow U.S. companies to purchase sugar in Cuba he answered, "Right now, no." He said that making decisions of that sort is a very complicated process in the United States in which the Executive, and Legislative branches have to get together. Castro added however that although Cuba would sell sugar to the United States tomorrow, it could also wait ten years more. "[illegible] Castro told the reporters here in Havana that Cuba was not impatient about selling sugar to the United States because there are no shortage of buyers for Cuban sugar.

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for CBC Radio News.

* Headline: Fidel Castro Explains Why the US Embargo against Cuba affects price of Sugar in USA

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US could buy sugar