

WR 530 politics

lobby of the
You walk through the Hotel Riviera here in Havana and
you hear what are unmistakably American accents. ~~Theyxxxxx They~~
The Riviera is a hotel that knew American accents way back when
Myer Lansky controlled the gambling casino there. But the gamblers
were kicked out, the hotel nationalized and the Americans
disappeared from the scene. More than a decade and a half ago
the US government clamped down an embargo on trade with Cuba and
~~US citizens were not allowed to travel to Cuba~~ ^{US} passports were
stamped, not valid for travel to Cuba.

~~But~~ ^{But} over these past few days, the American accents
were back. There are three separate groups of American businessmen
down here; a group of tourist bureau representatives from the
New York area, a group of black businessmen led by Dr. Carlton
Goodlet, president of the black american newspapers publishers
association and ~~xxxxx~~ and another contingent of three ~~xxxxx~~ US
companies shepherded down here by Kirby Jones. Jones, ~~xxxxx~~
press secretary to Senator George McGovern's ~~xxx~~ 1972 presidential
campaign has made it a business over the last two years to
bring American business representatives to Cuba, ~~by using a series of legal loopholes~~

to get around

US State and Treasury department restrictions. ~~His Washington~~
~~xxxxx~~ ^{businessmen have been} some of them have been

very big ~~one~~ companies - Boeing Aviation, ~~xxxxx~~
~~xxxxx~~ for example. Pepsi-Cola, National Sugar
and a variety of food, grain, shipping, stevedoring and chemical
companies have also sent reps to Cuba.

All these businessmen are here in Cuba for one thing: ~~to~~
explore the ~~business~~ possibilities for trade once the United States
lifts its ^{CUBAN} embargo on trade with Cuba. As far as the Cubans are concerned,
~~they have never had an embargo against~~
trade with the United States, so ^{they feel} it's really up to the ~~xxxxxx~~ US government
to take the initiative. Most of the businessmen I've spoken too down
here ~~we~~ believe that the Carter administration will be making moves
towards the normalization of trade and ~~xxxxxx~~ tourism
first and then towards the normalization of diplomatic relations
between the US and Cuba. ^{some time this year}

This is Lionel Martin in Havana for National Public Radio

National Public Radio

sent with actuality -
KIRBY Jones of Fred del Pozzo who
Owns Strawberry Fields in Jamaica + represents CARIBBEAN CANAL ZONE INC
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US businessmen in Cuba