

Letters to the Editor

Progress in Cuba

To the Editor:

My latest visit to Cuba reinforces my long-held conviction that the American giant is making a grievous mistake in continuing to bully the tiny but enterprising island just ninety miles from our mainland.

I have been going to Cuba for sixty years and once held substantial investments there. On trips in recent years, as the guest of Prime Minister Fidel Castro and his Government, I have had a fine opportunity to observe the steady progress being made, notably in education, health and agriculture. The net effect of our Government's opposition has been to stiffen Cuba's resolve to succeed, while cutting ourselves off from a source of lucrative trade.

In contrast to our intransigent attitude, our Canadian neighbor, with whom we share a 4,000-mile border, has continuously maintained official and friendly relations with Cuba. It is a matter of great pride and inspiration to the island's entire population that the Prime Minister of Canada plans an official visit to Cuba this month.

Although I had previously become

well acquainted with Prime Minister Castro and his brothers, this was my first chance for extended discussions with President Oswaldo Dorticos. I am impressed with his ability and dedication, qualities that also characterize the rest of the thirteen-member Politburo that governs Cuba. Contrary to impressions fostered by our officialdom, there is not a rubber stamp among them.

Cuba, with its fertility of soil and beauty of ocean, harbors and rivers, is truly one of the garden spots of the world. Whether or not it comes about during our present Administration, I foresee the early day when Americans and Cubans will again exchange free and friendly visits as in the happier past.

CYRUS EATON

Cleveland, Jan. 19, 1976



