

Brother Raul Will Be Successor, Fidel Says

New York Herald Tribune reporter **Barnard L. Collier** spent a week chasing volatile Cuban premier **Fidel Castro** around his island. This is one in a series of reports.

By **BARNARD L. COLLIER**
New York Herald Tribune Wire

HAVANA — Fidel Castro's speeding caravan got to Vera-dero Beach at about 9 on a Saturday night. After 10 days in the sweaty interior of Cuba, the smell of the sea, the glitter and wink of neon, the sound of people raising happy hell was wonderful.

We took rooms at the once-plush International Hotel, which is now the same 'socialist shabby' that most places in Cuba are. It is poorly maintained, plate glass is grimy, furniture threadbare, floors gummy and everything else more or less neglected.

At 11 p.m. a call came that Castro was waiting in the lobby.

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HE LOOKED TIRED but he was in good humor. He had eaten dinner, he said, but had not had a chance to clean up. The night-club floor show was about to start and he had made plans to see it.

When he walked into the dim, smoky room, the crowd — a large, jolly, hard-drinking Saturday night crowd — stood and gave him a roaring cheer and applause. "Fidel! Fidel! Fidel!" some began to chant. Castro looked impassive, but he obviously enjoyed it.

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"THE LAST TIME I went Marlin fishing was with Ernest Hemingway about three years ago," he said. "I caught a large Marlin, I don't remember how large. Heming-



Raul Castro

... heir to power

way was a good fisherman. I didn't know him very well but the Cuban people like him. In the Soviet Union they also admire him very much.

"When I was a student I used to read Hemingway. I remember in 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' I read about the man with a single rifle who holds off 20 men. I knew then that there was great importance in irregular warfare."

We talked for five hours:

Q. There is a lot of speculation in the U.S. about who would take over the revolution if something should happen to you.

A. "The more we institutionalize the revolution the less trouble there will be. I think there will be very little difficulty. At the beginning

there was no uniformity, no unity. Now there is uniformity and unity in command.

Q. Is there someone picked out?

A. "Yes. It will be my brother, Raul."

Q. You make a large point of the "provocations" at Guantanamo base, and that you might be forced to retaliate. That seems pretty reckless.

A. "If there is a repetition of the provocations — if one of our men is murdered there — that decision will be predetermined. There will be no alternative for me. Just as in the missile crisis there was no alternative.

"There are some that believe that an aggression against Cuba cannot bring a world war. But it will cause a world war. Missiles here or no missiles here.

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"I WOULD TAKE missiles again. We are protected by the real fact that aggression against Cuba means world war. That security, of course, is more complete if missiles are here. The only way to defend us practically is with missiles.

"As I said, the Soviet Union is seriously compromised in the world with Cuba. That is important. It is like the U.S. in Berlin.

"We must try very hard to

avoid incidents from here to your elections. I have not much hope but maybe there will be some change. Not with Goldwater but perhaps if Johnson is reelected there will be a little better climate but I don't have much hope with (assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs) Thomas Mann.

"I thought the Alliance for Progress was not bad under Kennedy but under Mann it is no longer the same.

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"I THINK that Kennedy was beginning to have a new conception of relations between Cuba and the U.S. before he died. He was an audacious politician and an audacious man. He had audacious ideas.

"The Alliance was audacious. Kennedy was a young, impetuous man. Look what happened concerning the steel companies. Toward the end of his life he made some interesting statements and speeches. But I believe things are different now."

Q. Why did you invite newsmen here? They see things so differently from the way you see them. We believe in capitalism and our kind of U.S. democracy.

A. "I believe in one thing: An interchange of ideas. I like — we like — to hear about U.S. points of view. If there is no mutual comprehension you imagine everything is done from wicked motives."

Q. Then what you want is some kind of dialogue? With

the press as the middle man?
A. "Yes, an interchange of ideas."

Q. The main criticism of newspapermen here is that your socialistic system isn't working and won't work.

A. "It will work."