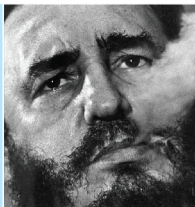


# America's 45-year blockade of Cuba

Cuba has demanded an end to the economic embargo imposed by the U.S. 45 years ago, saying the blockade is the longest and most cruel in history and has cost the island nation \$89 billion. The United Nations has voted 15 years in a row urging Washington to lift trade sanctions

■ **1959:** Cuban revolutionaries oust U.S.-backed dictator **Fulgencio Batista**

■ **1962:** Cuban government of **Fidel Castro** (right) nationalizes U.S. property. President **John F. Kennedy** (far right) retaliates with embargo



■ **Oct 1962, Missile Crisis:** – U.S. and USSR teeter on brink of war when Castro allows Soviets to base nuclear missiles on island

■ **1963:** Financial transactions and travel to Cuba banned for U.S. citizens

■ **1975:** Blockade becomes violent with CIA-linked mid-air bombing of Cuban airliner, 73 people killed

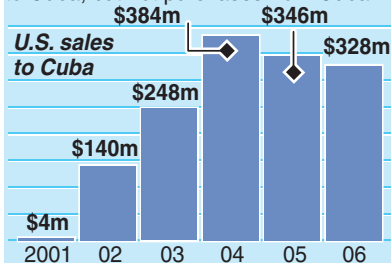
■ **1977:** U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** eases restrictions, drops travel ban

■ **1981-85:** President **Ronald Reagan** tightens embargo, strengthens travel ban, prohibits U.S. citizens from spending money in Cuba

■ **1992:** In bid to bring down Castro "within weeks", President **George H. W. Bush** signs **Cuban Democracy Act**. Move prohibits U.S. subsidiaries from buying Cuban food and medicine

■ **1996:** President **Bill Clinton** signs **Helms-Burton Act** which imposes penalties on foreign companies doing business in Cuba. Act opposed by EU

■ **2000:** President **George W. Bush** allows U.S. food and agricultural sales to Cuba, but not purchases from Cuba



■ **2004:** Bush cuts amount U.S.-based Cubans can send home to family members from \$12,000 to \$1,200 a year