

America's 47-year blockade of Cuba

U.S. President Barack Obama is permitting unlimited travel and transfer of money by Cuban Americans to their relatives and sponsoring greater telecommunications and internet links with the island

■ **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

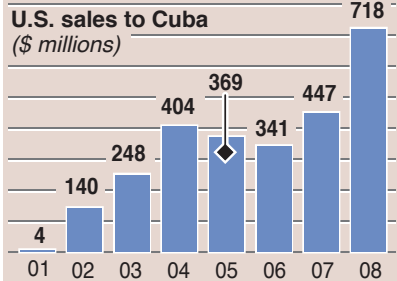
■ **1977:** U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** eases restrictions, drops travel ban

■ **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 administration restricts Cuban travel to two weeks every three years for immediate family members. Amount Cubans can send home cut from \$3,000 to \$300 per quarter

■ **April 2009:** U.S. licences will allow American companies to provide cell phone, TV and radio services to Cuba. **Obama administration pledges to engage in direct diplomacy with Cuba without preconditions**