America's five-decade blockade of Cuba

Cuban President Raul Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama have opened formal talks on restoring diplomatic relations, but only the

U.S. Congress has the power to lift the 52-year-long trade embargo

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 Santa Clara Havana







Sierra

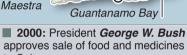
Cristal

Pinar Bay of Pigs del Río

CARIBBEAN 100km SFA 62 miles



Sierra



Santiago

0

Oct 1962. Missile Crisis: – U.S. and USSR teeter on brink of war when Castro allows Soviet Union to base nuclear missiles on island 1963: Financial transactions and

to Cuba 2002: U.S. opens Guantanamo Bay for interrogation of Al Qaeda suspects.

Cuba added to Bush administration's

travel to Cuba banned for U.S. citizens 1975: Blockade becomes violent with CIA-linked mid-air bombing of Cuban airliner, 73 people killed

list of axis of evil countries 2008: Fidel Castro steps down, Raul Castro takes over as president

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

- 2009: U.S. President Barack Obama takes office - says he wants
- 1981-85: President Ronald Reagan tightens embargo, strengthens travel ban, prohibits U.S. citizens from spending money in Cuba
- new beginning with Cuba 2012: Pope Benedict visits Cuba

■ 1992: In bid to bring down Castro "within weeks", President George H. W.

2014: Cuba agrees to EU invitation to begin talks to restore relations and boost economic ties, on condition of progress on human rights

Bush signs Cuban Democracy Act. Move prohibits U.S. subsidiaries from buying Cuban food and medicine 1996: President Bill Clinton signs

Sep-Oct: Cuba sends hundreds of medical staff to West African countries hit by Ebola epidemic

Helms-Burton Act which imposes penalties on foreign companies doing business in Cuba. Act opposed by EU Sources: BBC, New York Times

Dec: President Obama orders opening of U.S. embassy in Havana and review of Cuba's designation as state sponsor of terrorism Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS