

John Kerry makes landmark visit to Cuba

Secretary of State *John Kerry* will raise the American flag over the U.S. Embassy in Cuba on Friday, ending the Cold War in the Caribbean



KEY EVENTS IN U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

- **1959:** *Fidel Castro* takes power in Cuba. U.S.-backed dictator *Fulgencio Batista* flees into exile
- **1960:** Cuba expropriates most U.S. businesses, including oil refineries
- **1961:** U.S. breaks off diplomatic relations. Castro declares Cuba socialist state, 24 hours before doomed *Bay of Pigs* invasion
- **1962:** U.S. blockade forces removal of Soviet nuclear missiles from Cuba after standoff brings world to brink of nuclear war
- **1977:** President *Jimmy Carter* partially restores relations with Cuba, but political tensions and 1980 election of *Ronald Reagan* end them
- **1988:** U.S. arrests five Cuban spies and later jails them for espionage
- **1991:** Collapse of *Soviet Union* devastates Cuban economy

■ **2006:** *Raul Castro*, Fidel's brother, takes over presidential duties

■ **2009:** Cuba arrests USAID worker *Alan Gross*, accused of subversion

■ **2014:** President *Barack Obama* and Castro announce restoration of diplomatic ties and exchange of prisoners – including Gross and remaining three Cuban spies

■ **May 2015:** U.S. removes Cuba from list of state sponsors of terrorism

■ **Jul 20:** Embassies reopened in Havana and Washington

■ **Aug 14:** Kerry (inset) becomes first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Cuba since 1945