

CONCEALED CARRY II // THE CUBAN EMBARGO SERIES

FILE 01 // FIDEL

FIDEL

DECLASSIFIED // CUBA, 1959-1962



A revolution. A rupture. A cigar inspired by the figure at the center of it all.
The first release in Concealed Carry II: The Cuban Embargo Series.

The Face of a Rupture

Before Cuba became a Cold Warflashpoint, Fidel Castro walked into the United States Capitol as a visitor. On April 19, 1959, the revolutionary leader met Vice President Richard Nixon in Washington. The encounter captured a brief moment when the future of relations between the two countries was still uncertain.

Nixon's assessment revealed that uncertainty. He recognized Castro's ability to lead, but questioned his understanding of communism. Within a few years, the man sitting across from him would stand at the center of a confrontation that reached far beyond the Caribbean.

A Revolution Changes the Map

The overthrow of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 transformed Cuba's political landscape. Castro's government expropriated American economic assets and developed closer ties with the Soviet Union. What Washington had once viewed through the lens of regional influence became a contest between rival powers.

On April 17, 1961, Cuban exiles trained and funded by the CIA landed at the Bay of Pigs. The invasion failed. Instead of removing Castro, it strengthened his position.

The defeat did not end the confrontation. Later that year, Washington approved Operation Mongoose, a covert campaign intended to undermine his government. Intelligence, sabotage and political pressure became instruments in a struggle increasingly fought behind closed doors.



Castro and Nixon, Washington, 1959 – illustrative recreation

The Signature That Reached the Humidor

On February 3, 1962, President John F. Kennedy issued Proclamation 3447. Its import prohibition took effect at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on February 7, covering goods of Cuban origin and goods imported from or through Cuba, subject to authorized exceptions.

A decision written in the language of national security reached into an intimate American ritual: selecting a cigar. The humidor became one more place where geopolitics could be felt.

One of the era's most memorable stories came from Kennedy's press secretary, Pierre Salinger. In a recollection published in 1992, Salinger described being asked to obtain 1,000 Petit Upmann cigars. He reported securing 1,200 before Kennedy signed the embargo order. It is a participant's retrospective account, an extraordinary personal detail beside the formal public record.

The Next File Was Already Taking Shape

By October 1962, Soviet missile deployments in Cuba had brought the confrontation to the edge of nuclear war. The rupture was no longer simply about trade or diplomatic influence. Its consequences now reached the entire world.

Fidel opens The Cuban Embargo Series at that turning point: a revolution, a failed invasion, a presidential signature and a cigar caught in the machinery of history.

FILE 01 DECLASSIFIED. THE STORY CONTINUES.



Fidel - conceptual illustration

From History to Inspiration

Fidel Castro's image became inseparable from the cigar - a recognizable detail in photographs of a revolution that changed Cuba and its relationship with the United States.

That association is the inspiration behind *Fidel*, the first release in *Concealed Carry II: The Cuban Embargo Series*. Its name connects the cigar to the central figure in this opening chapter: the revolution, the rupture with Washington, and the events that brought the embargo into force.

The green box, red star and classified markings carry that historical theme into the presentation. Each detail invites the smoker to enter the dossier and discover the story behind the name.

Inspired by Fidel Castro. Framed by history. The first file is open.

Historical Sources

Nixon's meeting with Castro (April 9, 1959) - U.S. Department of State

The Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose - U.S. Department of State

Proclamation 3447 (February 3, 1962) - U.S. National Archives

Kennedy, Cuba and Cigars - Pierre Salinger, *Cigar Aficionado* (1992)

Historical context describes the inspiration for this release. It does not state the tobacco's origin, blend or manufacturing location.



Historical research - illustrative collage