

RELEASE OF 23 YANKS IS SEEN BY DONOVAN

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Lawyer Says He Can't Reveal Terms

James B. Donovan, who effected the release of the 1,300 captured Cuban Bay of Pigs prisoners, predicted yesterday that Premier Fidel Castro will free the 23 captive Americans in Cuba, but on ransom terms excluding cash or medicine.

"I can't disclose now what the conditions might be, but I am confident that American prisoners will be freed within two weeks," Donovan said at a luncheon of the Inland Press Association in the Drake hotel.

Outlines His Role

The New York City attorney said he will leave soon for Cuba to negotiate the release.

He outlined his role in the historic prisoner talks with Castro, told how the ransom of \$3 million dollars in drugs to the communist leader had "increased the United States image around the world," and warned that there will be no peace in Latin America until this country forces social and economic reform there.

He prefaced his remarks with what he said would be some "clarification" on what his role in the prisoner talks included.

"For example," Donovan said, "I did not undertake the assignment (to negotiate the prisoners' release) on the request of the attorney general, but rather on the request of a group of parents who had sons in the invasion."

Defends Drug Ransom

Sen. Gen. Robert Kennedy ordered the free talks, Donovan said the state government did not part of the agreement until shortly before the prisoners were transported

He defended the drugs ransom, asserting the medicines were responsible for saving babies. He denied that pressure was put on the companies that contributed drugs.

Donovan called Castro a "blatant actor" who has a sense of humor and who reverts easily to the "Latin, complex, volatile type."

"I have a wife and four children and will be back in Cuba soon," Donovan said. "Please understand why I can't answer questions that would be embarrassing to my mission."

Referring in a report yesterday that Russia will pull out her 17,000 troops in Cuba, Donovan, speaking as an American and not an official policy, said he welcomed the news as a step toward lessening tensions between American and