

Brazilian leader predicts Castro's return

by UPI

HAVANA - Brazil's president says he thinks Fidel Castro has regained his health and will retake his place as leader of Cuba before long. "I think Fidel will soon assume his political role in Cuba, his historic role in Cuba and the globalized world," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said after having talked with the ailing octogenarian communist leader in Havana. The BBC said Lula described Castro's health as "impeccable." "He has incredible lucidity and impeccable health ... He's as lucid as in his best moments," Lula said. Lula also signed agreements, including an aid package worth up to \$1 billion in credits, with Raul Castro, the island nation's acting president and Fidel Castro's brother, the British network said. Cuba also extracted a commitment from the Brazilian state oil company, Petrobras, to search for oil reserves in Cuban waters, the BBC said.

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