

## Castro says he's getting better

*by UPI*

HAVANA - Cuban President Fidel Castro claimed Wednesday his health is improving though initial operations for a gastro-intestinal ailment were unsuccessful.

The 80-year-old Castro discussed his health in a letter published in state-run media on the communist island.

Castro became ill in late July 2006 with an unspecified intestinal illness, the exact nature of which Cuban officials have treated as a state secret.

He said that even though his health is improving, his advanced age makes full recovery difficult.

Due to his illness, the Cuban leader turned over authority to his younger brother Raul Castro. Fidel Castro has not been seen in public since Raul, 75, took over the day-to-day leadership of Cuba.

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