

(Peru is considering breaking relations with Cuba, apparently to recoup some of the prestige it lost through Foreign Minister Porrás' actions at the seventh meeting of foreign ministers in San Jose. After Peru had initiated the meeting, Porrás failed to take the lead in promoting the resolution against extracontinental intervention in the hemisphere, defied his government's instructions, and finally refused to sign. President Prado, under pressure from the Peruvian military, has agreed to this move when the time is propitious, and particularly if other Latin American countries take similar action. Guatemala and Nicaragua broke relations with Cuba earlier this year. Colombia, which is incensed by a recent outburst by the Cuban ambassador in Bogota, will at least declare him persona non grata. Venezuelan President Betancourt, who has become increasingly hostile toward Castro and concerned by the threat of pro-Castro violence to his regime, also seems to be approaching a break.

Prado is reluctant to force the resignation of Porrás, a friend of the leftist but non-Communist APRA party, for fear of alienating the APRA's general backing of his administration. The cabinet unanimously censured his actions at San Jose, and the military representatives are insisting on his ouster.

APRA, a bitter enemy of the Peruvian military and conservative elements, has tended to sympathize with the objectives of the Cuban revolution; a dissident and militant wing of the party is strongly pro-Castro. However, Ramiro Priale, APRA's top leader in Peru, who advised Prado that the party would accede to a break of relations with Cuba, has informed the US Embassy in Lima that it will not withdraw its support of Prado in the event Porrás resigns--presumably voluntarily.

Porrás' position at San Jose was similar to that of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Arcaya, a staunch supporter of Castro, who refused to sign the final resolution of the meeting which was approved by his government. This development has caused considerable tension in Venezuela, where pro-Castro groups are strong, and could threaten President Betancourt's three-party coalition.

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