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LATIN AMERICA

6. Seven Countries Abstain on Cuban Resolution Before Committee of 21: A grandiose Cuban proposal on economic development presented to the just-concluded third meeting of the inter-American Committee of 21 in Bogota was defeated by 12 votes to 1 but drew abstentions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, and Venezuela. The proposal called for the creation of a \$30 billion development fund for Latin America to come entirely from the United States. The US delegation attributes the abstentions--except for those of Argentina and Brazil--to substantial pressure from pro-Cuban elements on the respective governments. Argentina's abstention seemed "inexcusable," while Brazil's was due to the "noted soft-headedness of its chief delegate, Augusto Frederico Schmidt," according to the US Embassy in Bogota.

Argentine delegate Musich's explanation of his abstention was that Argentina could never join in an intervention against any country in the hemisphere; in other words, he may have felt that a vote against the Cuban resolution might be considered joining with the US to bring pressure on Cuba. While Argentina might have decided that joining the other major Latin American nations would prevent its being further isolated from influence in the increasingly intertwined problems of Cuba and economic development, Musich's explanation contradicts Argentina's prior criticism of Cuba and its strong support of US positions in the recent OAS meetings in San Jose.

The final Act of Bogota, which outlines economic and social development programs for Latin America, was signed on 13 September. [REDACTED]