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Peru Breaks Diplomatic Relations With Cuba

Peru has broken diplomatic relations with Cuba, it was announced in Lima yesterday. Peruvian President Prado on 28 December had authorized Prime Minister Beltran to proceed with such a move within three days, provided that some other Latin American government would soon take similar action. Beltran felt that an editorial campaign in Lima newspapers and publication of correspondence recently seized in a raid on the Cuban Embassy in Lima would be sufficient to win strong popular backing in Peru for such a move. One letter from the Havana Foreign Ministry to the Cuban Ambassador in Lima reveals that Cuba has been siding with Ecuador in the recent flare-up of the highly emotional dispute over the Peruvian-Ecuadorean boundary. According to the letter, the Cuban Government also supports abrogation of other territorial settlements in the western hemisphere, going back as far as Mexico's cession of territory to the United States

The Peruvian Government has been seeking Argentine and Colombian agreement to break relations with Cuba at this time. The Argentine Government may not want to lose its listening post in Havana, however--particularly since Argentine Ambassador Amoedo, a long-standing friend of Fidel Castro although strongly pro-US, has been particularly active there. Moreover, an Argentine spokesman recently stated that the embassy in Havana was important as a refuge for anti-Castro Cubans

Colombia and Cuba do not now exchange ambassadors, but there has been no formal break in relations. Earlier this month Honduran Foreign Minister Alvarado Puerto proposed to the Colombian and Venezuelan Governments that the three jointly sever diplomatic relations with the Castro regime. On 28 December--possibly prior to the Peruvian demarche for a Colombian break with Cuba--the Colombian Foreign Ministry announced that its former ambassador to Havana would not return to Cuba but that a lower-ranking Foreign Ministry official was to be sent there

The Honduran President, concerned over a strong pro-Castro faction within his own Liberal party, would be reluctant t

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break with Cuba unless in so doing he associated himself with other democratic Latin American governments with high prestige in Honduras, such as Venezuela and Colombia. The Peruvian Government is generally regarded as more conservative than those of Venezuela, Colombia, or Honduras

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