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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ECUADOR, PERU WELCOME U.S. ATTITUDE ON SEA LIMITS

Paris AFP in Spanish 0539 GMT 11 Mar 71 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Lima, 10 Mar--Ecuador and Peru today said that U.S. Secretary of State Charles Meyer's statement to the effect that his country is, in principle, in favor of the extension of maritime sovereignty to 200 miles was worthy of praise.

This was said this afternoon by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Maria Ponce Yopez and Peruvian Foreign Minister Edgardo Mercado Jarrin. The former arrived in Lima to attend a conference of the Andean group foreign ministers here beginning tomorrow, Thursday.

Ponce Yopez said that Meyer's statement yesterday is very praiseworthy progress in the evolution of international maritime law, pioneered by Peru, Ecuador, and Chile.

General Mercado Jarrin said that it means a great step toward a dialog between the United States and Latin America, a dialog which must be free of threats.

Lastly, he recalled that the people of the United States and some of its legislators have already spoken out in favor of the 200-mile limit.

URUGUAY DECLINES PROPOSING RETURN OF CUBA TO OAS

Rio de Janeiro AFP in Spanish to AFP Paris 1756 GMT 11 Mar 71 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 11 Mar--Uruguayan Foreign Relations Under Secretary Americo Pablo Ricaldoni said here today that Uruguay will not propose Cuba's return to the Organization of American States (OAS). Ricaldoni, who is in Rio de Janeiro to participate in the ordinary 1971 meeting of the Inter-American Juridic Committee, said this in statements to Brazilian journalists. The Uruguayan foreign relations under secretary added that his country is willing to discuss the problem of Cuba's return to the OAS if it is proposed by another nation.

He said that his government will not take the initiative in making such a proposal, adding that if any country does take the initiative, Uruguay will make a decision in keeping with the situation at that moment.

Dr Ricaldoni also said that "there is always confusion when the problem of Cuba is discussed," adding that "maintaining trade relations is one thing, maintaining diplomatic relations another, and Cuba's return to the OAS still another."

In conclusion, he said that the Uruguayan Government has not, up to the present, taken any initiative to propose Cuba's return to the OAS.