

AUG 12 1954

Approved For Release 2005/07/12 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000400130050-2

POL 2-02.7 Chile/Cuba

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Cuba

ORG 1: OAS

CHILE BREAKS OFF CUBAN RELATIONS

Action, Under OAS Vote, Opposed By Strong Party

Santiago, Chile, Aug. 11 (AP) — Chile has suspended diplomatic relations with Communist Cuba, the Government announced tonight. Under sanctions voted against Cuba by the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States, Chile also may be expected to cut off its trade relations with the Castro regime. Chile's action leaves only three Latin-American nations still maintaining relations with Cuba—Mexico, Bolivia and Uruguay.

Failed To Materialize

Threats of violence in Santiago and elsewhere in the country protesting the Government's decision failed to materialize tonight. The Communist-dominated Central of Workers, Chile's biggest labor organization, announced it will hold a general strike protesting the break with Cuba, but no date was set.

There was no specific mention of trade in the Government announcement. The OAS foreign ministers, however, had ordered both a diplomatic and trade quarantine of Cuba.

Foodstuffs, Some Nitrates

Last year Chile had a nearly \$10,000,000 trade exchange with Havana. It included mostly foodstuffs and some nitrates in exchange for Cuban sugar. The exchange was running about the same this year.

The sanctions were voted against the Castro Government in Washington July 25.

Following Chile's action, a United States official in Washington said, "We are naturally

The sanctions were voted at

the request of Venezuela, which claimed the Castro Government—through terrorism, sabotage, infiltration and the shipment of arms—had attempted to overthrow the Venezuelan Government.

Bolivia has announced it will comply with the majority vote. Uruguay is studying the issue and Mexico has said it would break relations only if the OAS action was submitted to the World Court at The Hague and the Court upheld its legality.

President Jorge Alessandri acted in the face of threats from the left that a break with Cuba might bring on street violence. He met for two hours with a delegation of the Popular Action front, an alliance of Communist and Socialist parties and minor groups.

The front supports Socialist Senator Salvador Allende, a strong contender in the Presidential election to be held September 4.

He is opposed by Eduardo Frei, of the Christian Democratic party, a moderate leftist who is basically pro-West. A third candidate, Julio Duran, a centrist, is given little chance.

Alessandri has no candidate and so far his Government has not taken a hand in the campaign.

Some sources had expected him to delay the decision until after the election to avoid any impact the break might have on the campaign.

After the front's meeting with the President, Socialist Senator Salomon Corbalan, chairman of Allende's campaign, said:

"We told the President the foreign ministers' agreement is illegal."

"We also told him that for internal political reasons, a diplomatic break with Cuba would be inconvenient."

Corbalan declined to give other details of the discussion. But informed sources said the front leaders told the President that street violence and demonstrations may follow. They insisted Chile should stay with its old policy of nonintervention.

Chile's decision was conveyed to the State Department by Philip Phillippi, Foreign Affairs, by Philip Phillippi, Foreign Minister.