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C.I.F.A

Watered-Down Version

OAS Informally Approves Resolution To Cut Economic Ties With Cuba

By Dan Kurzman
Staff Reporter

Members of the Organization of American States informally agreed yesterday to approve a resolution making it obligatory for all OAS nations to cut off commercial relations with Cuba.

In addition, the resolution will "recommend" that member countries still maintaining diplomatic ties with Cuba sever them as well.

The OAS Council is expected to call today for a Foreign Ministers' meeting to

be held on July 16 or 21 to adopt the resolution formally.

The resolution will represent a watered-down version of one submitted to the Council by Venezuela calling for obli-

gatory economic and diplomatic sanctions against Cuba for trying to subvert and overthrow the Venezuelan government.

Under the new resolution,

Mexico, Chile, and other countries conducting trade with Cuba will have to end such intercourse or defy the OAS. It is believed that these nations will abide by the OAS order, however reluctantly.

Actually, trade between Cuba and the OAS member nations amounts at present to less than \$15 million, not even 1 per cent of Cuba's trade with the world, and the cutoff therefore is not likely to have great economic significance. But it is expected to have an important psychological effect in the war of nerves with Cuba.

As for the recommendation for a break in diplomatic ties, Mexico and Chile are not likely to cooperate, but Bolivia and Uruguay, the only two other members with such relations, probably will. OAS officials predicted.

Agreement on the resolution was reached after a series of conversations among members yesterday. The compromise solution was pushed by United States Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, Colombian Ambassador Alfred Vazquez and Peruvian Ambassador Juan Bautista de Lavalle, who is chairman of the Council.

The three men hammered out the accord after weeks of

negotiation with Mexico, Chile and other countries opposing a "hard" line. The original Venezuelan resolution is believed to have had the support of a necessary majority, but the United States and most other "hard liners" were reluctant to force the majority to accept a stronger resolution.

Only Venezuela and Costa Rica held out to the end for the obligatory severance of diplomatic relations.

In addition to Mexico and Cuba, Brazil and Haiti expressed disapproval of the final version. The four countries may vote against the convocation of a Foreign Minister conference, but could not alone prevent it.

The Mexican and Cuban governments are under pressure from domestic analysts. Brazil does not want to appear to be taking orders from the United States, and Haiti is believed to wish to extract economic aid from Washington.