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Venezuela to Urge a 'Screen' Around Cuba

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CARACAS — Venezuela will ask the Organization of American States at its July 8 meeting in Washington to establish a multi-nation screen around Cuba to stop the export of subversion.

Officials call this an act of self defense, and resent any hint the move has a political basis only.

They point out that ideological differences must rank second to Cuban subversion that has caused:

VIOLENT DEATH for some 4,000 Venezuelans.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS in business and property losses.

A STAMP OF VIOLENCE, particularly on the country's youth, that will be a criminal problem for years to come.

Their country cannot realize peace or pursue its potential while a foreign power inspires war within, they say.

Under Article 8 of the Rio Treaty, the OAS can respond to aggression with a series of measures ranging to armed action. New diplomatic and economic sanctions will be sought, but Venezuela's real goal is to eliminate Cuban subversion.

Officials emphasize that the arms cache presented to the OAS as evidence reveals only a portion of the problem.

They cite the 1962 rebellions at Carupano and Puerto Cabello, two years of almost constant terrorism designed to prevent elections and provoke civil war, a campaign among youth to stimulate violence.

Venezuela feels the only way to stop the subversion is surveillance of the island by the combined forces of hemispheric nations. This would mean ships and planes of OAS nations tracing all movements out of Cuba.

Originally, a blockade or quarantine had been contemplated, but this language apparently was softened in an attempt to win additional support.

Venezuela feels it has enough votes for additional sanctions of some sort, but is pressing for the surveillance.

"The greatest damage to Venezuela and Venezuelan society has been the poisoning of the minds of youth," said Dr. Gonzalo Barrios, minister of interior.

"They have made them conscious of wild ideas and given them a taste for violence that could exist long after the Communists themselves are beaten."

Dr. Manuel Mantilla, secretary-general of the presidency,

emphasized that "Castro was exporting subversion, not revolution."

"We had our own revolution," he said. "If his is a revolution, what is ours? What Castro does is the antithesis of revolution."

"His is a move to destroy what we try to build. Such international pressures determine the degree at which our national affairs can progress."