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OAS  
 GRC: Organization for American States

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INTERPRETIVE REPORT

# Blow Aimed at Cuba in OAS

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United States policy for dealing with maverick neighbor nations such as Cuba now appears headed toward evolution of tougher Western Hemisphere machinery for swift collective action.

This hard-line doctrine is expected to be revealed next month before the Organization of American States when the Venezuelan complaint against Cuba is considered.

The essence of the American plan is expected to hinge on the addition of one word, "subversion," to the list of offenses by one hemisphere republic that will bring down upon it the wrath of its sister nations.

### Other Acts Covered

Aggression and armed attack are specified in the charter of the OAS, but the word "subversion" is not there. Addition of this word would give the member nations, including the United States, a legal basis to take any steps up to and including open war against a nation that attempts to export revolution by subversion.

This is the charge that has been lodged against Cuba's Fidel Castro regime by Venezuela. The Communist-dominated island is accused of sending arms and trained saboteurs into Venezuela to overthrow the Nation now regarded as a showcase of democracy in South America.

The mainstay of Venezuela's case is a cache of arms, clearly marked as being of Cuban origin, found on the Venezuelan coast.

Washington diplomats believe Brazil's recent action severing relations with Cuba just about

clinched the case against Cuba. Two procedures are possible: a session of the OAS Council as an "organ of consultation" here or a council of foreign ministers. It is considered likely the member nations would prefer to use the "organ of consultation" tactics, for domestic political reasons.

At a meeting of foreign ministers in plenary session it is necessary for each foreign minister to outline in detail the position of his nation, and this inevitably would involve a tangle of politics for home consumption.

Brazil's breakaway leaves only four hemisphere nations continuing diplomatic relations with Cuba. They are Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile and Mexico.

Observers believe there is some reason to hope Bolivia and Uruguay eventually will break off relations too, but Chile and Mexico both face elections between now and September and are not likely to make any such move.

### Tight Quarantine Expected

Diplomats feel that Venezuela, with the active support of the United States, now has the two-thirds majority necessary to take punitive measures against Cuba for the arms cache affair. These are likely to consist mainly of a tighter economic and diplomatic quarantine against the island. It is believed 15 or more of the hemisphere nations will vote for such action.

Venezuelan diplomats, including former Foreign Minister Falcon Briceno, have been busy for the past several months lining up votes in all the American capitals. Under the Rio

pact, a majority vote is binding on the others.

It is expected the United States will take this opportunity to include the word "subversion" in the charter for use against transgressors. Armed attacks by land, sea and air are clearly spelled out, observers point out, but the shipment of arms or the use of infiltrators is not plainly covered by the charter reference to aggression.

### Warning to Cuba

It is believed this would serve sharp notice on Cuba that any future offense would bring quick, collective action against her by all the signatories.

Furthermore, it is believed Venezuela has decided to postpone action on the other part of its double-barreled resolution. With Costa Rica, the Venezuelans have moved for a resolution to preserve representational democracy in the Western Hemisphere, that is, to condemn governments that come into power by way of coups d'etat.

On tactical grounds, the Venezuelans are said to realize that they cannot have their cake and eat it, too. In short, if Caracas wants collective action against Cuba it must have the support of such coup-born governments as those of the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Honduras and Guatemala.

Venezuela feels so strongly about its new-found democratic government that it has broken off relations with Brazil and the Dominican Republic. However, if the Venezuelans do not press their complaint against such governments too hard they doubtless will get all the support they need for the OAS action against the common enemy, Cuba.