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Argentina to Send Special Envoys to US and Cuba

In its reply to Cuba's circular note of late February soliciting sympathy from the various Latin American governments, Argentina announced its intention to send special envoys to the US and Cuban governments. Argentina apparently acted without consulting any of the other countries in advance.

A Foreign Ministry official said on 4 March that Argentina's initiative was based on the following considerations: 1) the Cuban situation remains a disturbing influence on the relations of other countries with the US; 2) a solution to the problem must be one which will eliminate Soviet and Communist influence in Cuba and, without arousing leftist elements in the hemisphere, stop Cuba's efforts to spread its revolution abroad; and 3) the overthrow of Castro by anti-Castro Cubans from the US or Guatemala would probably prompt criticism which would worsen inter-American relations.

Argentina's action, however, is probably intended primarily for its effect on public opinion both at home and abroad. Heretofore, Argentina has been the strongest critic of Cuba among the large Latin American countries and has maintained that the Cuban problem should be handled only through the OAS. Recently, however, President Frondizi expressed doubt that a vote for collective action would get even a slim majority.

Brazilian President Quadros' statements on Cuba increase pressure on Frondizi to make a gesture of his own on Cuba. A Brazilian press report on 4 March quoted Quadros as stating that "even supposing that there is Communist infiltration in the Cuban Government, the Castro revolution has our sympathies and we are not in any manner disposed to uphold any action contrary to the principle of nonintervention in internal affairs of other countries so long as Castro does not try to export Fidelismo." [REDACTED]

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