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Spain Warns Sub Base Will Go If U.S. Decides to Cut Off Its Aid

MADRID, Feb. 22 (UPI) — Any decision to cut off aid to Spain as reprisal for its trading with Cuba would threaten U. S. plans to establish a Polaris submarine base in Spain, informed sources said today. Spain said today it had no intention of halting its Cuban trade.

The sources said the threat was implicit in the Spanish government warning that it would regard the halting of aid as a violation of the Spanish-American defense accords which were renewed last Sept. 26 for another five years.

A U. S. military spokesman confirmed only yesterday that the U. S. Navy plans to establish a base for Polaris submarines at the Rota Naval Base in southwest Spain. The only other such base in Europe is at Holy Loch, Scotland.

Rota is one of five large U. S. Naval and Air Force bases whose position would come under review if the United States went through with its threat to cut off aid, Spanish sources said.

Intention Stated

Information Minister Manuel Fraga Iribarne announced after a cabinet meeting today that Spain has told the United States it intends to continue trading with Cuba. Generalissimo Francisco Franco presided over the cabinet meeting.

"The Spanish government has always emphasized and

emphasizes once again its special situation regarding the Spanish-speaking American nations . . . considering that political regimes should not impede economic and other relations with countries of the same world," he said.

At the same time, Fraga Iribarne warned that the cancellation of military aid to Spain would be taken as a violation of the Spanish-American defense accords.

"The Spanish government is certain that the United States will take no unilateral action against the spirit or letter of the (bases) agreement," he said.

No Change in Position

Fraga Iribarne's statement indicated the Spanish government's position regarding Cuba has not changed.

"Since our war of liberation (Civil War)," Fraga Iribarne said, "at all times, in every case, and with firmness, this (anti-Communist) position (of the Spanish government) has been maintained. In this regard nobody can teach us lessons."

Discussing trade relations with Latin American countries Fraga Iribarne said, "in the case of Cuba, this position has special overtones, inasmuch as Cuba, which was Spanish until 1898, and because of its geographic position, is a nation in which large colonies of Spaniards live,

which imposes special problems of protection of interests, persons, goods, etc."