

CUBAN INSULTS PUZZLE MEXICO

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Treatment of Diplomat
Latest Incident

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MEXICO CITY — Communist Cuba seems to be trying to provoke Mexico. Why, is not clear.

Latest in a series of overt offensive actions was the Havana regime's charge that a Mexican diplomat there had been spying on Cuba for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The accusation is strange. Mexico has been careful to post diplomats of leftist persuasion to its embassy in the Cuban capital in recent years.

But Havana's additional demand that Mexico surrender embassy counsellor Humberto Carrillo to the Cuban government for trial for "grave crimes committed against our country" constituted a serious diplomatic insult.

Normally, in such situations, the worst done is to declare the offender "Persona non grata," not acceptable, and demand his withdrawal.

The suggestion implicit in the request, that Mexico would not only waive Carrillo's diplomatic immunity but also would turn him over to the mercies of a Cuban revolutionary tribunal, was certain to wound Mexican sensibilities.

THIRD TIME

To further compound the diplomatic offense, the text of the Cuban note was published in "Granma," the official Cuban Communist Party newspaper, before it was released in Mexico City.

It was the third time in less than seven weeks that the Cuban Communists have gone out of their way to embarrass puzzled Mexico.

The first came after the hijacking of a Mexican airline plane to Havana on the July 28th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. The two Mexican university students involved speedily were granted political asylum by the Cuban government, despite the facts that

that the comments were by a newspaper and not official.

NOT ACCEPTING

Some Mexican newspapers, which had earlier carried critical comments on Cuba's refusal to extradite the Mexican hijackers, ran apologetic editorials voicing the hope that the incident would not prejudice relations with Cuba.

To judge by the charges against Carrillo, the Castro dictatorship has chosen not to accept the Mexican olive branch.

Privately some Mexican political observers say that the Cuban diplomatic offensive may be intended to try to influence the selection of the candidate of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. These observers reason that, if Cuba can discredit President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz in some way, he may have less of a voice in choosing the man who will succeed him in 1970.

Diaz Ordaz, as interior minister during the presidency of Adolfo Lopez Mateos, was the Mexican government official who ordered that persons traveling between Mexico and Cuba

Mexico requested their extradition under an existing treaty and that Mexico and Cuba had been negotiating a bilateral agreement intended to halt aerial and other piracy.

Then the party organ, Granma, printed a lengthy insulting commentary on the state of relations between Mexico and Cuba.

The Mexican government chose to ignore Granma's tirade, presumably on the grounds

be fingerprinted and photographed.

Although Mexico did refuse to go along with the rest of the American republics when they decided to break diplomatic re-

lations with Communist Cuba, the fingerprint-photograph order is still in effect, much to the displeasure of the Cubans.