

U.S. Discards Plan On O.A.S. Embargo Against Cuba Trade

By HENRY RAYMONT

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WASHINGTON, July 4—The Kennedy Administration has abandoned plans to ask the Organization of American States to declare an economic embargo against Cuba.

This is the policy, at least for the time being, while the State Department searches for ways to press for the political isolation of Cuba and for a sharper fight against Communist subversion of the hemisphere.

United States officials said two months ago that a request for an O.A.S. trade ban on Cuba was "under active consideration" and would be submitted "within the next few weeks." These officials now believe such a ban would serve no useful purpose.

Latin Opposition Noted

They also believe that no new measures will be taken against non-Communist ships carrying cargoes to Cuba, even though this traffic has increased in recent months.

According to diplomatic quarters, one reason for the shift in United States plans is the growing opposition of some important Latin-American countries to Washington policy in the Organization of American States.

Diplomats from those countries believe that some United States requests for action against Cuba were designed primarily for their political and psychological effect and to ward off domestic critics of the Kennedy Administration.

That the mood of the Latin-

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U.S. DROPS PLANS ON CUBA EMBARGO

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American governments for new measures against Cuba is far from unanimous was emphasized yesterday. The O.A.S. Council was divided on a series of recommendations urging member countries to curb travel to the island and to establish closer security ties in the hemisphere.

While 14 countries voted in favor of the recommendations, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela and Haiti abstained, Chile opposed the proposals on the ground that they threatened to establish "police practices" that would violate civil rights.

One United States official said today that demands for action in the economic field at this time could create difficulties within the inter-American alliance far greater than the harm they would inflict on Premier Fidel Castro's Government.

Trade Is Now Minimal

Trade between the Latin-American nations and Cuba is minimal. It is largely reduced to shipments of Chilean garlic and beans in return for sugar. The Administration believed, however, that a ban on all trade would have dramatized Latin America's repudiation of the Cuban regime and heightened the island's sense of isolation.

An embargo on arms shipments to Cuba was adopted by the hemisphere foreign ministers' conference at Punta Del Este, Uruguay, in January, 1962. The conference also excluded Cuba from the activities of the inter-American system because of her ties to international Communism.

Some Latin-American diplomats link the decision not to press for a trade embargo to the Administration's appraisal of Dr. Castro's recent efforts to reduce tensions in his relations with the United States and a change in the atmosphere of Washington's relations with Moscow.

State Department officials insist, however, that there has

been no change in the policy to hasten the overthrow of Dr. Castro by all means short of war. They also concede that his fall is not in sight.

Radio Softens Its Tone

United States officials who have been analyzing Dr. Castro's offers to "normalize" relations believe they are motivated by a genuine desire to relieve external pressures on his regime at a time when it must concentrate on solving pressing economic difficulties.

They point out that Havana radio's recent broadcasts to the United States and Latin America have shown less aggressiveness.

Similar observations were made by Latin-American diplomats who recently returned from Cuba. They said that Dr. Castro had personally assured the Governments of Brazil and Mexico that he would abandon his campaign to subvert the Latin-American nations.

These assurances, they said, stemmed from Dr. Castro's belief that foreign pressures against him had decreased. The diplomats also said Dr. Castro

felt that his Government had consolidated itself internally.

Diplomatic informants said that an appraisal of the changing situation in Cuba was given to the O.A.S. Council at a secret session June 28 by U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

According to these informants, Mr. Johnson said that there had been a "definite decrease of tensions" in United States-Cuban relations. He said Cuba no longer constituted a military threat to the hemisphere.

This assessment was felt by some Latin-American officials to differ widely from the report discussed yesterday by the Council. It suggested that Soviet and Cuban attempts at subversion were increasing.

This report was prepared by a special eight-nation committee headed by Ambassador Juan Bautista de Lavallo of Peru. It recommended that the hemisphere nations curb travel to Cuba, increase vigilance over Communist-bloc diplomats and establish closer cooperation among security agencies.

A United States official said

the discrepancy between the two reports might have been due to the fact that the report discussed yesterday was compiled in January and that "there may have been some new developments since then."