

## THE OAS VOTE: PROOF OF WHAT?

WHEN President John Kennedy announced United States blockade of Cuba and threatened military reprisals if Russian missiles were not removed from the island, the Organization of American States, in an unprecedented move, voted unanimously in support of the unilateral move.

Since that history-making move by the Organization of American States, many have said that this was proof of the growing popularity of President Kennedy in Latin America, and some even went so far as to say that the Alliance for Progress already was beginning to pay dividends.

Any one, of course, is entitled to his own interpretation, but the important question is whether the interpretation actually meets all the facts. Did the OAS vote represent approval of the United States and President Kennedy, or was it rather a statement on the part of the Latin American nations that they felt action was needed?

Starting with the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion, the United States has been on the receiving end of one barb after another hurled from the vitriolic tongue of megalomaniac Fidel Castro. Pictures were distributed showing Castro with his fist clenched, jarring the U. S. to move against Cuba.

At all times he used the threat of Russia in his war of words against the U. S. Many reports came out of Cuba of Russian "technicians" being sent to the island by the thousands, of massive missile sites being constructed—and through it all the United States was silent.

The United States did maintain a diplomatic tug-of-war over the various issues, but when it came to taking a firm stand, Washington was silent. Then came the sudden, unexpected announcement from the White House: a sea and air blockade was being ordered, Russian ships would be boarded and searched, Russian missiles had to be returned to Russia or the United States was prepared to physically destroy them.

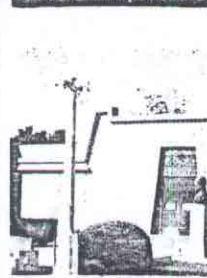
This was action. This was telling the Russians that the United States was ready for war if necessary, but the missiles and the missile bases had to go. Thus in the final analysis, the Latins were saying: Mr. Kennedy, call the bluff of the Russians and, for what it may be worth, we will support you.

The story would have a happy ending if, along with the removal of the missiles, the bearded one had been removed also. In this respect, the Russians still hold the upper hand because they still have a communist-dominated government within the confines of the Western Hemisphere.

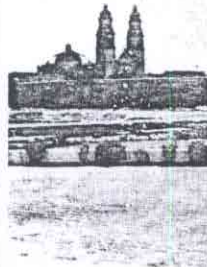
*William G. Gaudet*  
PUBLISHER

LATIN AMERICAN REPORT is published monthly by Latin American Reports, Inc., International Trade Mart, New Orleans 16, La. Single copy price: 50¢; Subscription: \$5.00 per year in the United States; foreign rates: \$6.00 (boat mail). *Officers:* President, William G. Gaudet; Vice President, Richard J. Cahill; Secretary, Henry R. Kron, Jr.; Treasurer, Sidney M. Toca. *Directors:* William G. Gaudet, Richard J. Cahill, Henry R. Kron, Jr., Sidney M. Toca, Henry L. Newell. Second Class Mail Privilege authorized at New Orleans, Louisiana.

### YUCATAN PENINSULA



Merida



Campeche city



Cozumel



Tulum

# LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

Published monthly to record and interpret the changing history of our hemisphere.

VOL. V

No. 2

Publication Date

December 1962

## Contents

### ARTICLES

REPORT ON MEXICO—PART 2 . . . . .	2
YUCATAN PENINSULA:	
A DIFFERENT LAND . . . A DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE . . . . .	4
MANY COLORS OF GOLD . . . . .	10
FROM THE LIVING PAST TO THE LIVELY FUTURE . . . . .	18
IN PANAMA: OPERATION FRIENDSHIP . . . . .	28

THIS MONTH'S COVER: Parque de las Americas' band shell, Merida. Photo by William G. Gaudet.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS: 1, William G. Gaudet; 2, Avila; 3, Roberto Fierro; 4, William G. Gaudet, Roberto Fierro; 5-9, William G. Gaudet; 10, courtesy Cordemex, William G. Gaudet; 11-15, William G. Gaudet; 18, W. F. Herning, Avila; 20, W. F. Herning; 21, Roberto Fierro; 22, Roberto Fierro, Avila; 24-25, William G. Gaudet.

NEXT MONTH: CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

### STAFF

William G. Gaudet	Publisher
Norman Thomas	Editor
Lyla B. Pinson	Creative Director
R. J. Cahill & Co., S.A.	Director of Sales
Apartado 4546	Central America,
Panama City,	Panama
Panama	and Colombia
Sidney M. Toca	Circulation Director

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send old address, exactly as it appears on your magazine, along with new address, including zone number. Allow at least four weeks to effect change.

MEMBER: Inter-American Press Association.

FOREIGN NEWS: Field representatives stationed in Mexico City, Mexico; Guatemala City, Guatemala; San Salvador, El Salvador; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Managua, Nicaragua; San Jose, Costa Rica; Panama City, Panama; Bogota, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador; Lima, Peru; La Paz, Bolivia; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Montevideo, Uruguay; Brasilia, Brazil; Caracas, Venezuela.