

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

End of Cuba Boyco

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By Jack Anderson

We reported in an earlier column that President Nixon has rejected the idea of including Cuba in his campaign to reduce East-West tensions. This is still the word going out from the White House.

But after the presidential election, we have now learned, he may modify his hard line toward Havana.

The detailed planning has already started for ending the boycott against Cuba and resuming trade relations. The plans won't be implemented until the Organization of American States votes to lift the boycott. But if the U.S. should reverse its attitude toward Cuba, this could be expected to have enormous influence upon the OAS.

The President is less interested in concessions from Havana than Moscow. During the Moscow summit bargaining, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko offered mischievously: "We'll throw Cuba in for good measure."

The wisecrack masked genuine Soviet misgivings over Cuba. It's costing the Kremlin more than \$2 million a day to keep Fidel Castro in power in Havana. They would like to reduce the burden, which a normalization of Cuban trade would help to accomplish.

President Nixon is now will-

ing to restore commercial ties with Cuba in exchange, say, for a softening of the Soviet line in Vietnam.