

Red Talks Unify U.N. Latins

Havana Threat of Hemisphere Subversion Is Spur

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UNITED NATIONS—There has been a remarkable renewal of Latin American unity at the United Nations in the ten months since intra-hemisphere relations were strained by the intervention of the United States in the Dominican Republic.

The threat of a more aggressive program of Communist subversion from Havana is one factor. A growing antagonism with the larger African group in the context of U.N. politics is another.

But most important appears to have been the spirit of Rio, a reflection of the unexpected success of the meeting of the Organization of American States in Rio de Janeiro last autumn.

The unity was dramatically demonstrated Feb. 8 when all but four of the Latin American members signed a letter to the President of the Security Council attacking the Communist-tainted Latin American Solidarity Organization that had been organized in Havana in January to help wars of liberation.

Washington Pleased

Nobody could have been happier about the letter than the United States. In fact, there is evidence that Washington may have had a hand in inspiring it.

The unity does not necessarily mean that the United States always will be happy with the Latin Americans.

The spirit of Rio was, in a sense, a spirit of independence from the United States, for it was at that conference that the Latins buried unceremoniously the Washington proposal for an Inter-American Peace Force.

Washington found the Latin Americans more divided and more independent on a number of political issues that

did not directly affect hemispheric interests or security.

On the question of the admission of Communist China to the United Nations, for example, three Latins abstained on the vote and four others gave serious consideration to abstaining.

On economic and social questions, the Latin Americans have been trying to cooperate with Asians and Africans to form a unified front representing the so-

called third world of poor nations.

The Latins found themselves at odds with the Africans on colonial questions in the last General Assembly. There was a complete falling out, for example, on the issue of deciding some colonial questions by a simple majority rather than the customary two-thirds. Not one Latin supported the Africans' move to force the procedural change.

Latin unity was particularly conspicuous when the Soviet Union tried to have the General Assembly adopt a declaration opposing interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

The declaration had been designed to embarrass the United States by underlining American intervention in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

Latins were delighted to

have a declaration of the United Nations to reinforce their own hemispheric ban on intervention. But they seized the initiative and went far beyond what the Soviet Union had intended so that the final declaration included a prohibition on Communist-style subversion and terrorism as well as Yankee-style marine landings.

Subversion Blessed

This set the stage for the reaction of the Latin Americans in the United Nations to the establishment of the Latin American Solidarity Organization in Havana.

The Latins were particularly shocked by the open participation of an official Soviet delegation in what was generally a meeting of unofficial delegations of a Communist complexion.

Even worse, in Latin eyes, the Soviet delegate specifical-

ly blessed some of the subversion campaigns under way.

Russia Criticized

So far, the Soviet speech has not affected diplomatic relations between Moscow and some of the Latin nations. There are Soviet embassies in Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, in addition to Cuba.

But the Latin Americans here, with the exceptions only of Mexico, Trinidad-Tobago and Jamaica, sent a sharp criticism to the President of the Security Council concerning the conference, its decisions, and the participation in it of official government delegations from the Soviet Union, China, Ghana, Guinea and Egypt.

Mexico, which did not sign the joint letter, later sent a letter of its own, making clear that it shared the concern at what had taken place in Havana.