

'Case-by-Case' Study Set on Cuban Trade

A new congressional requirement affecting foreign aid became effective yesterday and the State Department said it will decide "case by case" whether the United States must halt assistance to nations whose ships and planes trade with the Castro regime.

The Department said that yesterday was the deadline for aid-receiving countries—some of them NATO allies—to take action under the aid cutoff provision of the foreign aid bill passed in December.

The provision would deny virtually all economic and military aid to "any country which has failed to take appropriate steps, not later than 60 days after enactment" to prevent its ships and aircraft from carrying goods to Cuba.

Officials in the State Department, Defense Department and the Agency for International Development appeared to feel that the cutoff provision was not an effective weapon to discourage shipping to Cuba because the amounts of aid involved in most cases are small.

Raises 'Nasty Problems'

No official list of violators has yet been published, but it appeared that at least eight nations might be affected—Britain, Lebanon, Italy, Yugoslavia, Spain, France, Morocco and the Netherlands.

In addition, U.S. sources said the list might include Greece, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, West Germany, Japan, Turkey, Panama, Finland, Canada and Mexico.

Britain and France are listed as military aid recipients, but the amounts are negligible. Spain and Morocco receive larger amounts of military aid, with Spain's share amounting to a virtual quid-pro-quo for U.S. use of Spanish bases.

Military Aid Small

Lebanon and Italy could be affected by the cutoff provision because both purchase U.S. military equipment on credit, and some of these credit sales come under the foreign aid act. The Netherlands receives a small amount of residual military aid.

Canada, Finland, Sweden and Panama receive no U.S. aid now.

The Administration has announced no termination of which nations have taken "appropriate steps," nor has it defined whether there must be a complete halting of shipping or merely reasonable measures to curb it.

Greece has issued two royal decrees against shipping to and from Cuba. West Germany has adopted a licensing procedure to bar its vessels from Cuban trade.

Berlin Wall Reopening Is Rejected

BONN, Feb. 14 (AP)—West Germany and West Berlin today formally rejected an East German offer to reopen the Berlin wall for Easter and Whitsun holiday visits.

The West German government and the West Berlin Senate announced jointly that they had turned down a proposal for the temporary renewal of the agreement that allowed about 500,000 West Berliners to visit relatives in East Berlin on 1-day passes at Christmas time.

East Germany had offered last night to reopen the wall on the same basis on Easter, March 29, and Whitsun, seven weeks later.

Chancellor Erhard's government and the West Berlin Senate, charging the East German regime with misusing the Christmas pass agreement for political purposes, said in their announcement:

"The administrative agreement on visits to East Berlin during the past Christmas period resulted exclusively from humanitarian considerations. Despite this, the Communist side, after the conclusion of the agreement, sought with all means to make political capital out of it."

The statement referred to East German efforts to use the Christmas agreement to support its three-Germans theory: that West Germany, East Germany and West Berlin should be regarded as separate political entities. This theory is in opposition to West German hopes for reunification.