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Allies Unmoved by



GEORGE W. BALL
... appeals to allies

By Waverley Root
The Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, March 23—United States Under Secretary of State George W. Ball asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Council today for support in the economic boycott of Cuba, but does not seem to have succeeded in changing the opinions of America's fellow members in NATO.

NATO Council meetings are normally secret and members are meticulous about refusing to reveal or comment on what goes on within them, but it is understood that Ball's appeal was followed by comments from several other members

that were polite but non-committal.

Indirect evidence that Ball's request had made little headway was provided by remarks after the meeting by British and French experts, who reiterated their opposition to the Cuba boycott.

Doubts Expressed

Both of those countries have recently accepted bus and truck orders from Cuba, despite American expressions of displeasure. They feel that attacking Premier Fidel Castro's regime by trying to create economic hardship for the Cuban population that now supports him is a method of dubious character.

"It makes us wonder," a

British diplomat said, "whether, when the United States sells wheat to Soviet Russia, it is really, as we have heard some of your spokesman say, because you feel you cannot deny food to anyone or because you prefer dollars to surplus wheat. Personally, we see no sin in providing buses to take Havana's citizens to work."

The French point out that while they stood firm beside the United States in the Cuba missile crisis they take a different view of the economic boycott of the island.

Effect Is Feared

They fear that the effect of the boycott will be to leave Castro no resource except al-

Cuba-Boycott Plea

liance with Communist countries hostile to the United States—the Soviet Union yesterday, perhaps China tomorrow.

They also consider it a psychological error, making the United States look, in the eyes of Latin America nations—including those whose present governments are worried about the dangers of Castroism to themselves—like a bully trying to use overwhelming economic power and political influence with others to bring ruin to a country whose regime it disapproves.

In these circumstances, such calls for solidarity as Ball made today had better go unanswered, the French think.

"It is not certain," Maurice Duverger writes in *Le Monde*, "that solidarity in the present circumstances is the best way to strengthen the West. When a Western nation or group of nations carries on a bad policy, the alignment of others with that policy is more harmful than useful to the interests of all."

Soviet Envoy in Amman

Reuters

AMMAN, Jordan, March 23—The first Russian Ambassador-designate to Jordan, Slosa Dinco Constantinovic, arrived here today. The Soviet Union and Jordan decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level last year.