

U.S. Abandons Fight On U.N. Aid to Cuba

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Jan. 19 (AP)—Ambassador James Roosevelt says the United States is abandoning demands that the U.N. Special Fund refrain from spending U.S. dollars for aid projects in Cuba.

Roosevelt told a news conference that U.S. insistence that the United Nations spend no dollars in Fidel Castro's Cuba resulted in other monies being spent from the Fund. The United States puts up 40 per cent of the money in the Special Fund.

Roosevelt added, however, that the United States objects in principle to a proposal for the Special Fund to spend more than \$2 million to expand facilities for training engineers and architects at the University of Havana.

He said Cuba's shortage of technicians was largely due to Castro's policies that had "caused the departure from the country of many well qualified people."

"In our view an international fund should not be responsible for remedying shortages of professional people when these shortages are caused by

the government in control," Roosevelt declared.

The project was one of 85 proposed by Paul G. Hoffman, administrator of the new U.N. development program.

In another development, the United Nations wound up its world food pledging conference Tuesday nearly \$70 million short of the \$275 million goal it set to keep the program running another three years.

Pledges from 43 nations totaled about \$205 million of this \$139,592,529 represented surplus food commodities, \$33,590,000 transport and other services and \$31,373,000 was in cash.

The United States topped the pledges, as usual, with \$130 million. It pledged \$92 million in commodities on condition that this would not exceed 50 per cent of all contributions in that category. The United States also agreed to furnish \$32 million in shipping services and \$6 million in cash.

There was no contribution from the Soviet Union, but Poland and Yugoslavia said they were considering pledges and Cuba offered 5000 tons of sugar.