

Hemisphere Ministers Sign

By Ben F. Meyer
Associated Press

Foreign Ministers of the American Republics signed the final act of their six-day meeting here yesterday calling for the strongest punitive measures against Communist Cuba ever approved against a sister nation at an inter-American conference.

Now the questions are whether the mandatory dual sanctions calling for a break in diplomatic relations with Cuba and a cessation of trade and shipping to Cuba will be honored and if so, how effective will they be.

At the least, however, it seems the action by the organization of American States will have a pronounced impact on Fidel Castro's Communist government.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, appearing on the television program "Face the Nation," ABC, WMAL, called the meeting of OAS Foreign Ministers the most important ever held in this hemisphere.

Rusk underlined the importance of the diplomatic sanctions by saying that they would halt subversion carried out through Cuban embassies. He said also that the diplomatic sanctions would have a sharp psychological effect on the Cuban people and encourage them to resist the Castro regime.

He said the trade and sea transportation sanctions would also have a significant effect on Castro subversion.

"We expect now a consolidated hemisphere in resistance to these subversive activities from Cuba," Rusk said.

Four nations that signed the act—Mexico, Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay—had voted against the measures con-



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This was the scene yesterday as the Foreign Ministers of the American Republics voted, by a show of hands, to impose

diplomatic and economic sanctions against Communist Cuba. The vote was 15 to 4 in favor of sanctions.

demning the troubled Castro regime and calling for the imposition of sanctions.

But Bolivia announced im-

mediately it would respect the majority decision "as the democratic system provides for" and Uruguay is expected

to follow suit. Chile may do so if an anti-Communist government is chosen in September presidential elections, in

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which a Communist-backed candidate is rated a strong contender.

Mexico's Foreign Minister, Jose Gorostiza, was the only Latin-American foreign affairs chief to spurn the OAS conference because he opposed its plans. Mexico denounced the censure of the Castro regime in speeches to the conference.

Will the sanctions be effective? Mexico, Chile and Argentina seemed inclined to question this at the conference, but the majority obviously feels strongly otherwise.

Actually, Latin-American nations do little trading with Cuba, but experts at the conference said that in addition to the psychological impact, the commercial ban would help stop the clandestine flow to Cuba of urgently needed machinery, equipment and spare parts made in the United States. Officials here suspect the amount of such goods transhipped through Latin America, while not extensive, has been important to Cuba's economy.

In addition to the direct and indirect trade between Latin-American countries and Cuba, there are ships registered in Latin-American countries but owned outside these countries that have been used in the Cuban trade from Europe and elsewhere. Presumably, imposition of sanctions would cripple use of such foreign-flag vessels.

Also, when trade with a country dries up, it makes it less easy for such a nation to move its propaganda and

agents of subversion into other countries and tends also to eliminate pockets of cooperation from those profiting by trade—legal or illicit.

That perhaps was what Thomas C. Mann, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, had in mind when he said in a state-

ment that the conference action was "a body blow to Communist subversion in the hemisphere."

U.S. officials feel strongly that this government's sanctions against trade with Cuba have been a powerful factor in contributing to Castro's economic problems.