

DAILY OCEAN MAN  
Editorial Research 7/21/61

## OAS Wrist Slap Due for Castro

THE chastisement the Organization of American States is preparing for Fidel Castro will sting but it will be little more than a very sharp wrist smack. The three resolutions to be placed before the 20-nation council of OAS foreign ministers at their Washington meeting will hurt Cuba but not much. Their passage seems assured.

The case before the OAS was brought by Venezuela last December 3, under the Rio de Janeiro Treaty of 1947. Venezuela charged Cuba with aggression after uncovering a three-ton arms cache last November on its north shore. A special OAS investigating committee decided in February that the arms had come from Cuba. The foreign ministers meeting was delayed in part to accommodate Mexico, although the outcome of the Mexican Presidential election was never in doubt.

At least 16 votes, two more than the required two-thirds majority, are reported assured for the resolutions. In draft form, these provide a mandatory injunction to suspend all trade with Cuba. Not much is involved here — something in the nature of \$9 million, or less than one percent of Cuba's world trade, although there are reports of a lively clandestine transshipment trade from Haitian and small Mexican ports.

Venezuela is pressing for a complete break in diplomatic relations, but the foreign ministers probably will only "recommend" such action.

Brazil, even though she does not, opposes a mandatory break, not wanting Latin nations to appear to be taking orders from the United States. Chile and Mexico firmly oppose withdrawal of recognition. Bolivia and Uruguay would probably go along with a recommendation.

The resolutions also call for suspension of sea and air communications with Cuba. This would be a small punishment. Only Mexico allows Cuban airplanes to fly a regu-

lar route from Havana. Mexico considers its sovereignty involved. For that matter, Mexican authorities cooperate smoothly with our own, and the air passenger lists furnish a convenient check on Havana visitors.

Actually, while Castro is having increasing success in gaining assistance for his economy in West Germany and Japan, it is geared toward our own. The trickle of electrical equipment, sugar mill and other replacement parts, and new equipment coming in from Yucatan and Haiti is not enough.

That wrath had been slow to kindle.

The OAS will be taking its first action against Castro in the five and a half years of his Cuban Communist dictatorship. Even if it's no more than a ritual wrist slap, its significance will be the demonstration that the OAS can take some sort of collective action against subversion from within the hemisphere.