

P at 8/17/64

# Chile's Announcement of Break With Cuba Places Mexico on Spot

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The Los Angeles Times

MEXICO CITY—Chile's surprise announcement last week that it was breaking diplomatic ties with Cuba created as much consternation among Latin American observers as Mexico's earlier declaration that it would continue to maintain its relations with the Cuban Communist regime.

Chile had been expected to hold out against diplomatic and economic sanctions voted against Cuba by the foreign ministers of the Organization of American States in Washington on July 25—at least until after presidential elections Sept. 4.

It had been feared that any step taken by Chile against Cuba might cause violence created by left-wing elements in support of Premier Fidel Castro. Also, it was believed that nationalistic groups might throw their political support to the Communist-backed, Socialist presidential candidate who had already gone on record as opposing the OAS sanctions.

Fears of massive street demonstrations have thus far proved groundless. It is understood that the Communist and Socialist parties have issued orders to their members to refrain from demonstrations and

to concentrate instead on elections. It is expected that Cuban recognition will now become a major campaign issue.

Creating internal problems through violence might lessen Communist chances and cause the Chilean government to take repressive measures which would limit Red campaign activities.

Chile's decision to support the OAS sanctions against Cuba is in direct contrast to the attitude assumed by Mexico two weeks ago in announcing that it believed the sanctions violated the OAS charter, the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (Rio pact) and the United Nations Charter.

Because of these objections, Mexico said she would not break its Cuban relations and offered instead to abide by a World Court decision if an appeal were made.

While Mexico professes no sympathy for the Cuban Regime, the stand taken by this country has given support to leftist elements in Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay. In addition to her legal arguments, Mexico has insisted on upholding the principle of non-intervention and self-determination for all nations.

Bolivia and Uruguay have been apparently on the verge

of breaking their Cuban ties, but have hesitated to do so, fearing increased internal strife. Chile has taken this chance.

It is believed by many that the present government, by not remaining quiet, has given Chilean Communists added ammunition to woo previously uncommitted nationalists and intellectuals to their side.

The principle of nonintervention is a delicate problem in most Latin American countries, including Chile. The Chilean Communists, pointing to Mexico as an example, can expect to win added adherents.

Until the Chilean break with Cuba, it was believed that Eduardo Frei, of the Christian Democratic Party, had a decided edge over opposing socialist candidate Salvador Allende, who is backed by a Communist Socialist alliance.

The race is basically between two leftists. The Christian Democrats, far more to the left than their European counterparts, are intensively nationalistic, with a certain amount of anti-U. S. sentiment.

What worries observers in Chile is that, a choice between two leftists only, the Communist and Socialists may gain considerably by their increased support of national sovereignty and nonintervention.