

High Mexicans See U.N. Best Weapon Against Castroism

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MEXICO CITY, March 3

High Mexican officials believe that the most practical way to contain Castroism would be a United Nations resolution calling on Cuba and members of the Organizations of American States to stay out of each other's internal affairs.

Mexican leaders offered this interpretation of the much-publicized statement on Cuban-United States relations made by President Adolfo Lopez Mateos at a news conference Feb. 22 at his Palm Spring meeting with President Johnson.

Lopez Mateos then told reporters that the United States should air its complaints against Cuba before the U.N. rather than before the OAS in view of Cuba's ouster from the OAS.

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The occasion for that remark appears to have been the issuance of a report by an OAS investigating committee confirming the validity of Venezuelan charges that Cuba has tried to instigate revolution in Venezuela through arms smuggling and other subversive activities.

Mexico does not want to get involved in any OAS-sponsored program for "punishing" Cuba, and one high Mexican official even hinted that Mexico would not necessarily consider itself bound by an OAS majority vote to apply sanctions.

Mexico does not feel that Cuba, even if its subversive efforts are exposed, represents a serious threat to the Hemisphere. But to the extent that a threat does exist, Mexican officials argue, it cannot be effectively dealt with by the OAS.

On the one hand, they say,

new pinprick sanctions, such as further trade squeezes and diplomatic isolation—five Latin nations still maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba—cannot possibly have an important practical effect on that Communist nation.

On the other hand, Cuba, having been ousted from the OAS, is more likely to thumb its nose at the organization than to heed pleas for good behavior, say the Mexicans.

Ideally, Mexico would like to see Cuba back in the OAS on the theory that this group could then maintain a certain amount of influence and control over Cuba.

But since the return of a Communist Cuba to the fold would hardly be acceptable to the U.S. or most other OAS nations, Mexico thinks the U.N. could, and probably

would, reduce the Cuban threat to the Hemisphere.

Since Cuba is a member of the U.N., it is pointed out, it would be responsive to its "advice," particularly in the light of the fact that the U.N. embraces the largely neutralist Afro-Asian world whose

sympathy Cuba wants.

Soviet Veto Expected

Mexican officials did not say that the U.N. would apply sanctions against Cuba if the United States or some other OAS state could prove charges of Castroite subversion.

It is expected that the Soviet Union would veto such a move in the Security Council.

However, the Mexicans argue, the U.N. General Assembly might approve a resolution which would be aimed not only at Cuba, but at the OAS nations.

"If, in accordance with such a resolution, the United States pledged not to engage in efforts to overthrow the Cuban government," one Mexican official said, "Cuba would have no choice but to promise not to engage in subversion in other countries. If Cuba were then caught lying, she would have the U.N. to answer to. This may not be perfect control, but Cuba would certainly be under much greater pressure than she is now to mind her own affairs."

Behind Mexico's logic is the belief that the United States and some OAS nations are defeating their own purpose in their policies toward China. These policies, the Mexicans say, are emotionally geared toward the overthrow of the Fidel Castro regime, which, in reality, cannot be overthrown except by force—neither by internal revolution or all-out invasion.

The emphasis should be, the Mexicans argue, on containing communism within Cuba. Sanctions, it is maintained, cannot accomplish this end, but mobilized world opinion, as reflected in the U.N., could possibly do so.

The Mexican argument is rooted also in other factors. Mexico, which in the last century, lost more than half its territory to the United States, has traditionally opposed any hemispheric policies involving interference of one state in the affairs of another for whatever reason.

Furthermore, Mexican leaders do not want to antagonize unnecessarily influential elements in the monolithic Mexican ruling political party, whose policies are based on a form of consensus.