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Kissinger And U.S. Cuba Policy

Washington

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was reported yesterday as willing to support a move in the Organization of American States that could lead to an end of the economic and diplomatic embargo against Cuba.

Sol M. Linowitz, a former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, told reporters that Kissinger assured the commission on United States-Latin American relations that current American policy concerning Cuba might be changed, perhaps as early as March when inter-American foreign ministers meet in Buenos Aires.

State Department officials said later that Linowitz' remarks should not be interpreted as a reflection of a changed American attitude toward Cuba. Rather, they said, Kissinger is concerned over the implications of minority rule in the OAS.

In the last meeting of the organization in Quito, Ecuador, earlier this fall, a majority of the group voted to end the embargo. However, with the abstention of the United States the move to lift the embargo the vote fell short of the necessary two-thirds needed.

Linowitz said Assistant Secretary of State William D. Rogers indicated earlier the United States would support a move to end the two-thirds rule.

Linowitz is chairman of the private commission which has been studying American policy toward Latin America.

Kissinger said he had met for an hour with the group and came to the conclusion that their recommendations followed the principle of his policies for dealing with Latin America.

"I attach the greatest importance to the revitalizing of U.S.-Latin-American relations," Kissinger said.

Associated Press