

CUBA SANCTIONS, IN FORCE 11 YEARS, LIFTED BY O.A.S.

JUL 30 1975

Vote of Costa Rica Meeting
Effectively Ends Embargo
—U.S. Joins Actions

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, July 29—The Organization of American States tonight ended political and economic sanctions against Cuba, effectively abolishing the embargo imposed 11 years ago as a penalty for fostering Communist guerrilla activities in the hemisphere.

The decision was approved by 16 of 21 O.A.S. members, including the United States. The resolution allows each member country to determine itself how it wishes to deal with Cuba.

The move is unlikely to have much effect on Cuba, which is allied to the Soviet bloc and which since 1962 has avoided participation in hemispheric organizations involving the United States.

But the lifting of the embargo will reintroduce a certain amount of uniformity within the O.A.S.

Seven Latin American countries now maintain diplomatic and trade relations with Havana in defiance of the sanctions. They are Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Jamaica and Barbados, which joined the O.A.S. after the sanctions were imposed, also have diplomatic ties with Cuba.

Foreign Minister Gonzalo J. Facio of Costa Rica, who for three years has been leading the effort to end the embargo, told newsmen this morning that as a result of the expected action today "more countries will establish relations with Cuba."

"We will start to consider normalization of relations with Cuba tomorrow," he added. Honduras is also expected to seek the resumption of ties soon.

The chief United States delegate at the meeting here, William S. Maillard, said that after the embargo is ended there may be "conversations that might lead to some kind of normalization" between Washington and Havana.

But the United States has its own trade embargo against Cuba predating the O.A.S. sanctions by three years. There are also complex problems involving the expropriation by Cuba of American-owned property worth more than \$1-billion, American blocking of Cuban assets, and continued detention of political prisoners, including some Americans, in Cuba. These appear to preclude an early resumption of relations.

Nor is the lifting of sanctions

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O.A.S. Terminates Its Sanctions on Cuba

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likely to alter Cuba's trading patterns appreciably since the bulk of her exports of sugar, nickel, fish and rice go to Soviet-bloc countries. The resolution here is in marked contrast to the embargo action taken by the O.A.S. foreign ministers on July 26, 1964.

After reiterating adherence to "principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation," the brief resolution expresses the wish "to further inter-American relations in the broadest possible sense."

It goes on to say that the 21 O.A.S. members who are parties to the 1947 Rio de Janeiro security treaty under which the embargo was imposed are now "free to normalize or conduct in accordance with national policy and interests of each their relations with the Republic of Cuba at the level and in the form that each state deems advisable."

The 1964 document, on the other hand, was composed of 17 pages of resolutions and declarations, including a note from Venezuela complaining of Cuban guerrilla actions and a message of sympathy to the people of Cuba charging that they were suffering under a system "alien to the democratic and Christian traditions of the American family of nations."

Castro's Bitter Reaction

This prompted Premier Fidel Castro to describe the O.A.S. as "a cesspool," subject to the imperialist whims of the United States, a view he has maintained ever since. Few imagine that Premier Castro would take the lifting of the sanctions as a reason to resume active participation in the O.A.S.

Despite the lifting of the 1964 embargo, Cuba will remain suspended from the rights and obligations of the Rio security treaty, following an action by 21 hemispheric foreign ministers at Punte del Este, Uruguay, in January 1962, in which they accused Cuba of becoming part of "the Sino-Soviet bloc."

Supporting the resolution were Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, the United States, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Opposed were Paraguay, Chile

and Uruguay. Two countries—Brazil and Nicaragua—planned

Cuba Press Breaks Silence

HAVANA, July 29 (Reuters) — The Cuban press last night broke its traditional silence on the Organization of American States to announce the meeting aimed at lifting the sanctions.

The evening paper Juventud Rebelde, quoting a dispatch from Costa Rica of the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina, said the resolution to be considered "aims at putting an end to the discriminatory measures adopted 11 years ago."