

Cubans Protest Move Toward Castro Accord

By Stephen J. Lynton
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About 1,000 Cuban American demonstrators marched from the Lincoln Memorial to the Ellipse yesterday to show their opposition to Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba and to protest any move by the Organization of American States toward reconciliation with the Communist government.

The demonstrations, which also included anti-Castro speeches and chants, was timed to coincide with an OAS meeting at the Pan American Union building here. At the OAS meeting yesterday Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger indicated an understanding had been reached on a formula for eventually ending the 11-year OAS embargo against Cuba.

As the demonstrators marched past the heavily guarded Pan American Union building at 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, some of them waved their fists and shouted in Spanish "traidores" (traitors) and "Cuba, si, Russia no."

More than 100 metropolitan and park police surrounded the building on Constitution Avenue and drew up six Metrobuses, some of them filled with additional police, to block the demonstrators from approaching the building.

A bomb blast at the Pan American Union building last November caused serious damage to its roof, walls and windows. An OAS spokesman at the time said an anti-Castro group suspected of planting the bomb. Early yesterday morning, bombs exploded outside the office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot and the Mexican Embassy in Northwest Washington.

Alfredo M. Cepero, the chief organizer of yesterday's anti-Castro demonstration, and other protest leaders disavowed any link with the bombings.

"No. Positively no. We don't believe in that. We have nothing to do with that," Cepero, a writer and translator for the Voice of America, said when asked

about the bombings.

The demonstration grew from a few hundred during a late-morning rally near the Lincoln Memorial to about 1,000 at the start of the march at 12:50 p.m. Then it tapered off during a second rally at the Ellipse, ending at 3 p.m.

The estimate of 1,000 demonstrators at the protest's peak was based on an approximate head count by The Washington Post and a police estimate. Cepero, contending that The Post always misjudged the size of anti-Castro demonstrations, said the total was "at least 2,000."

The speakers at the rallies included Juanita Castro, who broke with her brother Fidel in 1964 and went into exile, accusing him of having betrayed his revolution. Another speaker was Carlos Prio Socarras, who was president of Cuba from 1948 to 1952 when his government was overthrown by Fulgenio Batista.

The former president's daughter, Maria Antonieta Prio, was among a small group that placed a wreath of red roses within the Lincoln Memorial shortly before noon. The others were described as relatives of those killed under Castro's regime.

The demonstrators' speeches, placards and slogans repeatedly attacked the Castro regime, denounced OAS moves toward dropping the embargo, criticized the meeting of Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) with Castro in Cuba last week, and attacked Kissinger's foreign policy as a capitulation to communism.

McGovern's talks with the Cuban premier were the latest sign of less frigid relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

Juanita Castro, speaking in English with reporters, denounced Kissinger as a "traitor" to democracy who has just "sold" South Vietnam and Cambodia to the Communists on "a silver plate."

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