

Bombings at Meeting Site

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Crucial OAS Meeting on Cuba Sanctions

Quito, Ecuador

The hemisphere foreign ministers begin a five-day meeting here today to decide whether to lift the economic and political sanctions imposed on the Cuban government of Premier Fidel Castro in 1964 by the Organization of American States.

Several foreign ministers — including Emilio Rabassa of Mexico and Gonzalo Facio of Costa Rica, both leaders of the movement to return

Cuba to the Latin American fold — have expressed optimism that the necessary two-thirds majority, or 14 votes, will be obtained.

Only Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay — all of them right-wing military-dominated governments — are listed as irrevocable opponents of any conciliatory gesture to the Castro government.

Even the United States, which led the movement ten years ago to quarantine the Havana government, is not considered sure to cast a

negative vote.

According to Latin American diplomats, there is no evidence that the United States is exerting behind-the-scenes pressure on undecided nations to support the continued isolation of Cuba.

The turnaround in attitude toward the Havana regime is due partly to the evaporation of fears that the Cubans are a subversive threat to countries in the hemisphere.

The Chileans, who have

become the most vociferous opponents of the Havana regime in the hemisphere, have invited a number of anti-Communist exiles from Miami to address the OAS conference.

Police and troops have tightened security here amid reports of possible terrorist attacks by advocates or opponents of the sanctions against Cuba.

Two bombs exploded yesterday near the headquarters for the OAS meeting. One damaged the Bolivian

embassy and injured a porter and a small girl. The other damaged the Brazilian cultural center.

Both Bolivia and Brazil are cool toward lifting the economic blockade against Cuba.

Seven OAS members — Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados — have already restored diplomatic and economic ties with Cuba.

A Costa Rican government spokesman warned that if

the effort to lift the blockade fails, several more countries would soon rescind the sanctions on their own.

New York Times

Dutch Jail for Canada Nurses

Haarlem, Holland

Two Canadian nurses received jail terms yesterday after being convicted of possessing hashish.

Both were sentenced to six months in district court here.