

# Cuba's Supporters Are Defeated in Attempt to Overturn O.A.S. Sanctions

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QUITO, Ecuador, Nov. 12—A resolution to end the economic and political blockade imposed on Cuba by the Organization of American States a decade ago was defeated today when it failed to gain the support of the required two-thirds majority of O.A.S. members.

The vote means that more Latin-American countries will flout the O.A.S. prohibitions and establish ties with the Government of Premier Fidel Castro. Seven members—Argentina, Peru, Panama, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados—have already done so.

But today's outcome also means that Cuba continues to be formally considered an outcast by the most important regional organization in the hemisphere.

The resolution, sponsored by Costa Rica, Colombia and Venezuela, called for a straight forward abolition of the trade and diplomatic quarantine invoked

against Cuba in 1964 because of her supposed support of Marxist guerrilla movements in the hemisphere. It noted "the change in circumstances" in the last decade—an allusion to the belief by most O.A.S. members that the Cubans are no longer a threat to Latin-American governments.

But the resolution's supporters, who previously had expressed confidence that it would receive as many as 16 votes, overestimated their strength and tried desperately in the last few days—in court-dor encounters, public speeches and late-night meetings in hotel rooms—to coax more delegates into backing them.

They circulated a softer draft resolution that would have simply permitted O.A.S. members to re-establish ties with Cuba on their own.

When it became apparent in the last two days that not even that proposal could win the necessary 14 votes, they decided to fall back on the initial, tougher resolution, and angrily

demonstrated the resisting minority, particularly the United States.

The American delegation—Secretary of State Kissinger—maintained a stone-faced silence through most of the five-day conference, attending the discussions but seldom participating in the debates.

"We have remained silent prior to the vote because we wished to avoid even the appearance of influencing by our remarks or by our actions the outcome of this meeting," said Under Secretary of State Robert S. Ingersoll, the head of the delegation, in a speech after the voting. "We have not voted no and we have not worked against the resolution."

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The resolution's supporters sharply criticized the position of the United States, arguing that neutrality was tantamount to hostility because abstentions counted as negative votes.

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The Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Efraim Schacht Aristiguieta, termed the absence of Mr. Kissinger "a deplorable example of the little interest he had in strengthening and sustaining" the O.A.S.

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The statement termed the two-thirds rule used in today's voting "an absurd proceeding, contrary to the democratic sense that should govern international bodies" and warned that the failure of the resolution "seriously compromises the authority of the O.A.S. It predicted that members would continue to violate the sanc-

tions and establish relations with Cuba.

In a separate statement the Foreign Minister of Peru, Gen. Miguel Angel de la Flor Valle, said, "The results of the voting clearly demonstrate the pre-cariousness and weakness of the inter-American system."

But other delegates sought to play down the effect of today's voting on the organization's unity and authority.

"Cuba has absorbed far too much of our attention in recent years," said Mr. Ingersoll. "We must not let a failure of agreement on the Cuban issue, at this time, obscure our common interest in working together toward mutually beneficial re-

lations and establish relations with Cuba.

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## Cuban Hostility Cited

According to Mr. Ingersoll, the United States initially opposed a review of the anti-Cuban sanctions at this time, but was "persuaded by other nations that the issue should be discussed."

He acknowledged that a majority now existed for lifting the sanctions, but reminded the other delegates that "for some of us, evidence of Cuban hostility is fresh in our minds."

"If this meeting of consultation has not produced a conclusive result," said Mr. Ingersoll, "it has at least aired in a constructive way the fact that there is no easy solution to the problem of a country which deals with some on the basis of hostility and with other on the basis of a more normal relationship."

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