

U.S. Won't Permit Intervention By Cuba, Kissinger Tells Latins

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Feb. 24—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger attempted today to reassure the Central American nations that the United States would not permit intervention by Cuban armed forces in the hemisphere.

But his statements, made at a luncheon here on the last day of his tour through six Latin American countries, left unclear what the United States response would be to Cuban armed intervention in Latin America and under what circumstances Washington would act to prevent such an incursion.

"Recent events have shown that foreign adventurism is not dead," said Mr. Kissinger in a clear reference to the 12,000-man Cuban expeditionary force in Angola. "Expeditionary forces may still be sent across the oceans to intervene in, and impose their will upon, the domestic affairs of other countries. The United States will not tolerate a challenge to the solemn treaty principle of nonintervention in this hemisphere."

A Channel for Action

Mr. Kissinger was referring to the Rio Treaty of 1947 providing for collective security in the hemisphere.

The treaty permits a Latin American nation faced with aggression from a foreign country to call for a consultative meeting of the Organization of American States. The O.A.S. can then vote in favor of armed collective action.

But the War Powers in the United States requires Congressional approval if United States troops are to be sent abroad for more than 30 days.

Mr. Kissinger is known to be concerned that the rapid success in Angola of the Cuban expeditionary force, which suffered few casualties might encourage Havana to intervene somewhere in the Western Hemisphere. During his trip

through Latin America, the Secretary of State has repeatedly said that the United States would not stand idly by in the event of another Cuban act of armed intervention.

Mr. Kissinger's remarks here were his strongest statement to date that the United States would seek to protect a Latin American country from overt Cuban interference. But they fell short of a specific commitment of armed support against any foreign military intervention in the hemisphere.

Some Are Indifferent

A number of Latin American countries—such as Peru and Colombia—have publicly demonstrated themselves indifferent to the Cuban intervention in Angola.

Other nations in the area, particularly in Central America have expressed more concern over the Cubans and over the United States' ability to react,

given the current mood of Congress.

During his 24 hour visit in Costa Rica, Mr. Kissinger met in brief individual sessions with the Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. He also conferred with Juan Antonio Tack, who heads the Panamanian delegation negotiating a new Panama Canal treaty with the United States.

Originally, Mr. Kissinger had intended to meet with the presidents of the six Central American nations. But the President of Guatemala, Kjell Laugerud declined to come because of the devastating earthquake in his country, and the other presidents then dropped out of the meeting one by one.