

# More Latin Lands Seem Willing to End Ban on Cuba

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—Diplomatic sources said today that increasing numbers of Latin-American governments were willing to lift the sanctions on Cuba that the Organization of American States imposed in 1964, largely at the instigation of the United States.

Both Latin-American and United States officials have reported that President Nixon's sudden initiative toward China has revived dormant pressures for an improvement of ties with Cuba.

Many Latin diplomats, moreover, now suspect that the United States may be planning to change its policy toward Cuba. This speculation has stemmed from a remark by Secretary of State William P. Rogers Aug. 2 at a news conference. The Secretary said:

"In October, 1969, President Nixon said with regard to Latin America that we must deal realistically with governments as they are."

## Action Puzzles Latins

Despite subsequent State Department insistence that Mr. Rogers was not hinting at any impending United States initiative toward Cuba, many Latin diplomats have been wondering why this phase was included in a statement devoted principally to the new United States policy toward China.

"We don't want to be left behind like the Japanese," one senior Latin ambassador said, referring to Japan's chagrin over learning belatedly of the secret visit to Peking by Henry A. Kissinger, the White House adviser for national security affairs.

Galo Plaza, Secretary General of the O.A.S., has been working behind the scenes to

try to restrain Latin countries from individual changes in their policies toward Cuba. He is striving to keep such moves within the framework of the organization. He is reported to have asked the White House and the State Department to help him in his task by keeping him—and thus the states in the organization informed as to any changes in United States policy toward Cuba.

Mr. Plaza began quiet consultations over the Cuba issue last November in Mexico City with diplomats of Mexico, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Costa Rica. In varying degrees, all reportedly favored steps to "normalize" relations with Cuba. The United States, however, is understood to have caught wind of the soundings. Soon after, Brazil, which favors continuing sanctions against Cuba, urged successfully that the consultations end.

In addition to the United States and Brazil, the other

members of the organization most firmly opposed to an easing of sanctions against Cuba include Argentina, Guatemala and Paraguay.

## Cubans Denounce O.A.S.

Apparently in reaction to press speculation regarding Cuba's return to active membership, the Cuban Foreign Ministry today denounced the O.A.S. as "historically a ministry of colonies in the American State Department." It said that Cuba would reject any move to restore her to active membership but would welcome restoration of diplomatic ties with individual Latin countries.

Ten days after taking office last November President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile, a Marxist, ignored the 1964 vote on sanctions and has restored full diplomatic ties with Cuba. Two weeks ago Clodomiro Almeyda Medina, Chile's Foreign Minister, visited Havana and Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, Peru's Foreign Minister recently announced that Peru was studying resumption of relations with Cuba.

President Allende is due to visit Ecuador on Aug. 24, Colombia on Aug. 27 and Peru on Sept. 1 and there are strong indications here that an end to the O.A.S. sanctions against Cuba will be the topic.

"I'd be surprised if the matter didn't also come up for discussion when the O.A.S. political council reconvenes after its summer recess on September 8," Mr. Plaza said yesterday.

In recent months Cuba's economic difficulties, on one hand, and President Nixon's efforts to ease relations with the Soviet Union on the other, have served to reduce the image of Cuba as a "threat" within the hemisphere. Furthermore, many Latin nations,

moved by reasons of race, language and historic heritage, after seven years have sought to end Cuba's "outcast" role.

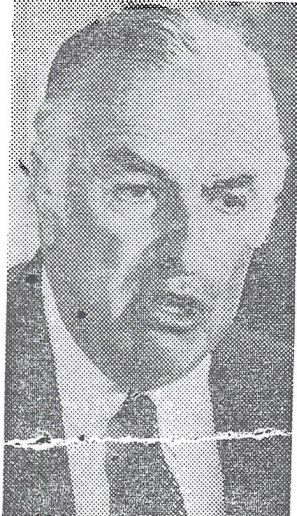
## Fulbright Asks Fresh Look

Officially, United States policy toward Cuba remains unchanged. Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has urged a fresh look at United States policy toward Cuba. However, Charles Appleton Meyer, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, testified last month that Cuba had neither shown interest in rejoining the O.A.S. nor ended the policies that led to the 1964 sanctions.

He said that Cuba still insisted on "exporting revolution" throughout the hemisphere and still retained close military ties with the Soviet Union.

"There has got to be some crack in the door — and Fidel keeps closing it," Mr. Meyer told the committee.

Under organization rules, half the members—there are now 23 members, plus Cuba, which is inactive — may approve an item for discussion. A minimum of 16, or two-thirds, would be needed to lift the sanctions introduced by Venezuela and approved July 25, 1964, by a vote of 15 to 3. Opposed were Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, with Bolivia abstaining.



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**Galo Plaza**