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U.S. Opposes Moves to Let Nations in O.A.S. Lift Sanctions Against Cubans

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — The United States declared opposition today to moves that might permit members of the Organization of American States to act individually to remove sanctions against Cuba.

Those informal moves, originated by Peru, seek to find legal means for member nations to bypass the 1964 resolution by the O.A.S. ordering them to sever diplomatic, consular and economic relations with Cuba.

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, read to newsmen a statement saying that the United States believed that "the present circumstances do not justify alter-

ing the O.A.S. decision on sanctions."

He said that, by virtue of "its continuing international behavior and support for revolution, Cuba remains a threat to the peace of the hemisphere."

Mr. McCloskey declined to offer specific instances of Cuba for revolutions, confirming himself to the comment that "in our judgment this exists in different places" in Latin America.

Castro Remarks Cited

He said the Havana regime had not denied that it was continuing its policy of encouraging revolutions and he cited recent public remarks by Premier Castro along these lines: "Acting on a request by Peru,

members of the O.A.S. Council held informal private meetings here on Monday and Tuesday to debate whether the sanctions resolution could be legally changed from a mandatory one to that granted options to individual countries.

When the O.A.S. foreign ministers voted more than seven years ago to order the breach in diplomatic, consular and diplomatic relations with Cuba, they provided that the sanctions may be lifted only if the organization's council found by a two-thirds majority that the Havana regime no longer constituted a threat to hemispheric peace.

The discussions this week showed that the Peruvian ef-

fort on Cuba's behalf were unlikely to command even a simple majority for a formula allowing members to "follow their own dictates" in dealing with Havana.

Delegates from Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Jamaica and El Salvador were the only ones to speak in favor of the resumption of relations with Cuba. Seven delegations, including the United States, opposed it and nine remained silent.

The Chilean delegate, Luis Herrera, charged the United States with "intervention" in the hemisphere as he addressed the council's closed session on Tuesday in support of the Peruvian initiative.

Mexico is the only O.A.S.

member to have ignored the 1964 resolution and maintained relations with Cuba. Chile resumed relations with Havana after her new President, Dr. Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist, took office 13 months ago.

Diplomats have said they believed that Peru and Ecuador would also move unilaterally to restore ties with Cuba if the present O.A.S. effort fails, as is expected.

Peru, where a military government with strong social reform proclivities is in power, established relations with China

earlier this autumn and, this week, received a loan from Peking.

Ecuador is moving toward a similar position of "nonalignment" in international politics, particularly as her dispute with the United States over fishing rights for American tuna boats in waters claimed by the Ecuadorians continues to deepen. The State Department said today that a mission headed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, Charles A. Meyer, left Ecuador last night after a week of fruitless attempts to settle the dispute.