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Comment:



Mexico Feels 'Backlash' on Castro Issue

By VIRGINIA PREWETT.

Mexicans identified with their country's holdout policy against the New World's anti-Castro sanctions are beginning to reap the consequences.

Mexico's Ambassador to the Organization of American States, the personable and eloquent, if resolutely pro-Castro, Dr. Francisco Sanchez Gavito may catch the blame for Mexico's mounting embarrassment. Insiders in Mexico City now say Mexico went out on the pro-Cuban limb because Dr. Sanchez Gavito assured President Adolfo Lopez Mateos the pro-Castro causes had much stronger Latin American backing than it proved to have.

CANDIDATE?

But President Lopez Mateos, who leaves office on Nov. 1, may feel a "backlash," too. The report has circulated widely thru the U. S. and Latin American press that he nailed down Mexico's position defying the hemisphere mandate to break relations with Castro because he wants communist bloc influence to help him become the next Secretary General of the United Nations. This report has aroused opposition among the all-important Latin American caucus at the UN to his potential candidacy for the office.

Nor are Mexicans who are pro-Castro for pocketbook motives entirely happy. Sugar exporters to the U. S., the ailing but still important Mexican film industry and even Mexico's thriving tourist industry are all feeling a chill brought on by the pro-Castro policy.

Mexican sugar exporters have been jolted to learn that strong sentiment in the U. S. Congress favors substantially reducing Mexico's U. S. sugar quota because Mexico is defying the OAS sanctions against Castro. The U. S. beet sugar industry's strong drive to take a whopping bite out of the foreign cane grower's U. S. market was beaten back in Congress this year. But it will surge up again in next year's Congress — and if

any foreign country loses imports, it will be Mexico.

Meanwhile, anti-Castro Cubans are going for the jugular vein of Mexico's tourist trade and overseas film distribution.

PICKETING

Exiles in New York and San Juan, Puerto Rico, are picketing Mexico's tourist bureaus. On Labor Day, the Cuba Workers' Committee distributed one hundred thousand handbills at the New York World's Fair that said: "DO NOT visit Mexico, the country which supports the Hyena, Fidel Castro." Next week the committee intends to start picketing the Mexican tourist office and the Mexican Airways in Washington.

Their picketing of Miami's two Spanish-language movie houses has been 100 per cent successful — no more Mexican films are being shown there. Next week they will start picketing nine Spanish-language movies in New York and one in Union City, N. J. They expect to spread the movement over the U. S.

The Cuban Workers' Committee in New York has a fat file of clippings from newspapers all over the hemisphere editorially applauding their move to boycott Mexican films and tourist travel.