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Sanctions Compromise On Cuba Is Expected

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The Inter-American Conference of Foreign Ministers remained deadlocked yesterday over the question of sanctions against Cuba but indications mounted that a compromise was in the making.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk offered the strongest hint of such a development in a speech he delivered to the hemisphere Foreign Ministers in the Pan American Union building.

Rusk vigorously requested that sanctions be applied against Cuba for trying to subvert the governments of Latin America, in particular Venezuela. That country called for the present conference under the provisions of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty) after Cuba tried to foment the overthrow of its democratic government late last year.

Door Left Open

But Rusk studiously avoided spelling out what sanctions should be imposed on Cuba leaving the door open for a compromise agreement.

Venezuela demands that diplomatic and commercial relations, as well as all transportation and communications facilities, between members of the Organization of American States and Cuba be severed on a mandatory basis.

Mexico and Chile are equally insistent that no sanctions be applied, at least on an obli-

gatory basis.

Since Rusk did not specify the nature of the sanctions the U.S. wanted, neither side could complain about his speech. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ignacio Iribarren Borges said after the talk that he viewed it as supporting the tough Venezuelan position.

But other observers considered the speech conciliatory to Mexico and Chile because of its vagueness.

Sympathy for Venezuela

Rusk made clear the depth of U.S. sympathy for the Venezuelan cause. "Today it is Venezuela which is under attack," he said forcefully. "Is there any one of us who can say with assurance 'it cannot be my country tomorrow'? So let us say to Venezuela and her brave people: we are with you in full solidarity and will act with you."

But after requesting the imposition of unspecified sanctions, Rusk appeared to dilute this demand by proposing a "clear warning to the Castro regime that if it persists in acts of subversion in other American Republics, the full weight of the regional security system will be applied."

Venezuela demands that the "full weight" of this system be brought to bear against Cuba now, calling for implementation of every penalty listed in the Rio Treaty except the use of armed force.

Since Rusk is not believed to have insinuated that the U.S. would favor the use of

armed force if Cuba continued its efforts at subversion, many observers concluded that Washington was seeking sanctions weaker at this time than those advocated by Venezuela.

Trade Moves Urged

Further contributing to this belief was an appeal by Rusk for a measure that would "urge our own governments and those of other free-world countries to take appropriate steps in the field of trade with Cuba."

Venezuela — and most other OAS countries — want, at the least, a resolution calling for a compulsory severance of hemispheric trade with Cuba. Yet Rusk merely asked for a measure "urging" such action.

Ironically, a Mexican official privately said before Rusk delivered his speech that although Mexico could never reduce its opposition to any resolution calling for the compulsory cutting of diplomatic relations with Cuba, it could "live with" a mandatory trade ban.

Thus, it appeared that a compromise along such lines was possible despite bargaining maneuvers intended to save the faces of the "hard" and "soft" line countries. Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama submitted a resolution yesterday supporting the Venezuelan position, and Argentina and Brazil circulated "working papers" backing the opposite stand.