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Comment:



Mexico Fights OAS Action Against Cuba

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

Mexico is staging a last-ditch fight to prevent Organization of American States action punishing Communist Cuba for subversion in Venezuela.

Mexico's OAS Ambassador Vicente Sanchez Gavito startled the New World diplomatic corps in caucus recently by affirming that "the Mexican government may fall" if Mexico abandons its pro-Cuba policy.

He had previously raised diplomatic eyebrows by insisting the OAS meeting on Cuba could not be held before Mexico's presidential elections on July 5. Nothing in hemisphere politics is so cut-and-dried as a Mexican election, in which the candidate named by the ruling Party of the Institutionalized Revolution is elected with machine-like regularity.

The Ambassador's excuse was recognized as an undisguised delaying tactic.

STABILITY TEST

"Novedades," one of Mexico's leading newspapers, reports he "spoke disdainfully" of the OAS. The forthcoming meeting on Cuba will test the stability of the inter-American system, said the paper.

Chile and Brazil are the only countries backing Mexico. Brazil may change at any minute, since its pro-Cuba attitude is considered a carry-over from the Goulart regime.

Both the Mexican and Brazilian opposition is credited in part to the personal slant of the respective countries OAS repre-

sentatives. Dr. Sanchez Gavito has been an untiring personal friend of the Communist Cuban cause.

And the Brazilian, Ambassador Ilmar Pennamarinho, is a career diplomat whose loyalty is more likely to follow already laid-down Brazilian Foreign Office policies than those of the new revolutionary government. Brazil's Foreign Office quite often follows a policy that varies from that of the Brazilian presidency.

CANDIDATE?..

Dr. Juracy Magalhaes, the newly arrived Brazilian ambassador to Washington, in contrast is closely related to the new Brazilian president. Political gossip already mentions him as a possible candidate for vice president, or even president, in the next elections.

Chile's case is simpler. The Alessandri government is not unwilling to go along with sanctions against Communist Cuba—to break all diplomatic and economic relations and cut communications, as Venezuela desires, but Chile is in the midst of a hot-fought presidential election.

Neither the communist-Marxist candidate, Sr. Salvador Allende, nor the Christian Democrats' candidate, Sr. Eduardo Frei, want to break relations with Cuba. The Alessandri government feels that if it severs relations now and Sen. Allende, for instance, renews them after he is elected, it will be "much worse" for Chile.