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OAS Vote Due in 30 Days On Charges Against Cuba

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A conference of Western Hemisphere foreign ministers is expected to convene within the next 30 days, probably in San Jose, Costa Rica, to act on Venezuela's complaint of aggression against Communist Cuba.

The preliminary maneuvers and strategy discussions are virtually complete. It remains only for the Organization of American States to name the time and place.

Washington observers believe enough votes have been lined up for the necessary two-thirds majority needed to pass a stiff resolution, warning the Cubans that no further aggression will be tolerated in this hemisphere. The estimate is that 14 or 15 nations will support a censure of Cuba's attempts to undermine Venezuelan democracy.

Four Still Maintain Ties

Experts expect the resolution will recommend that the American republics sever diplomatic ties with Cuba — as all except four have already done—and halt all economic relations with the island.

The United States, Venezuela and Costa Rica are the hard-line neighbors. At the opposite end of the spectrum are Mexico and Chile, which with Bolivia and Uruguay are the only four hemisphere nations still maintaining diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The Council of the Organization of American States, perhaps this week, will decide on some of the procedures to take about Venezuela's complaint.

Cuba has already been read out of the OAS. Now the holder residents think the time has come to take sterner action.

The questions are: When,

where and how to chastise the unruly Red nation?

Venezuela and democratic little Costa Rica insist that the letter of the Rio Pact requires a meeting of foreign ministers. The biggest, richest and most powerful neighbor, the United States, has felt that the strongest resolution against Cuba would come from a session of the OAS Council itself, meeting as an organ of consultation. A few nations—Mexico, for example—would rather pretend the problem doesn't exist and ignore it.

One influential diplomat, Gonzalo J. Facio, Costa Rican Ambassador to the United States, said in an interview that he believes the decision will be to convene the foreign ministers either next month or in July to consider the Venezuelan complaint. A likely location, he said, is San Jose.

The major Latin American nations do not want the council of ministers to meet in their capitals, Mr. Facio says. He believes, on the other hand, that a council session in Washington would put the anti-Cuba nations at a propaganda disadvantage.

Mr. Facio discounts the argument that the Latin foreign ministers would balk at taking a public stand in the action against Cuba.

"It is time they did stand up so the rest of the world can see," Mr. Facio declared.

Condemnation of Cuba Seen

He predicted that the hard-line nations have the necessary majority of 11 votes required to convene the foreign ministers and the 14 needed to secure condemnation of and even economic sanctions against Cuba.

The foreign ministers he

predicted, will vote to condemn Cuba for attempting to export revolution to Venezuela, and authorize any member nation, or group of nations, to take armed action against Cuba if any new aggression occurs.

A second result of the council, Mr. Facio forecast, would be the application of steps to deepen Cuba's isolation from the rest of the hemisphere. Depending on the wording of the resolution, he said, the 20 nations might decide either to recommend or to require severance of all diplomatic and trade relations with the Caribbean island.

Mr. Facio said he believed Bolivia and Uruguay would break with Castro if a strong moral condemnation results from the council, and that Chile will follow suit after the September elections if Eduardo Frei is elected president.

Arms Cache Discovered

"If any case demands the application of the Rio Pact, this one does," Mr. Facio said. "Unless the pact is acted upon, we might as well tear it up. We believe this treaty should be invoked in a meeting of the foreign ministers, as the pact requires."

He said Venezuela's case against Cuba is proved beyond any doubt. The complaint is based on the finding of a cache of arms on the Venezuelan coast last November. The arms bore Cuban markings and apparently were intended for the Communist FALN underground. The motor of the boat used to transport the arms had been shipped from Canada to Cuba just two weeks before the incident, Mr. Facio asserted.