

3. Reactions to New US Restrictions  
On Exports to Cuba

While the majority of Latin American governments appears to feel that the United States was justified in imposing an embargo on most exports to Cuba, official circles in Mexico and Chile are taking a critical attitude toward the US action, viewing it as an important propaganda advantage for Castro in the hemisphere.

The Ecuadorean foreign minister and Bolivian President Paz, while sympathetic to the US position, have also expressed concern over what they expect will be a strong negative reaction in public opinion throughout the hemisphere. Venezuelan President Betancourt, as well as the Bolivian President, warned that the US move will be strongly criticized unless further action is also taken against the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. The Brazilian attitude seems complicated by the hopes apparently harbored both by the Kubitschek administration and by President-elect Quadros of effecting a reconciliation between the United States and the Castro regime.

Some of the Latin American governments expressing sympathy for the United States move may see it as obviating the need for their participating in any future multilateral sanctions against the Castro regime. Many Latin American leaders prefer to regard the Cuban issue as a bilateral problem between the US and Cuba. The Ecuadorean foreign minister frankly stated that a number of Latin American governments are too weak to run ahead of public opinion on this issue.

In Canada, the press has un-animously applauded Prime Minister Diefenbaker's announcement that "Canada has no intention whatsoever of imposing any embargo on Canadian goods in Cuban trade." The Canadian press was critical of the United States embargo action, and is exhorting the government to stand firm against any interference with exports and re-exports by subsidiaries of US firms in Canada. In a 4 October report on the Canadian Government's concern about the possibility of US restrictions against Cuba, the American Embassy in Ottawa commented that it was unfortunate the issue should arise at a time when the Canadians are particularly sensitive to US influence over their economy and are considering the adoption of measures to combat this influence.

On 20 October, Radio Moscow reacted to the US move with: "We hardly need more vivid evidence that the US ruling circles intend a military venture...to strangle Cuba just as they strangled Guatemala.... But this time it will be different. Cuba's cause is the cause of all people working for peace against colonialism."