

# VENEZUELA SEEKS DRIVE ON CASTRO

## Betancourt Urges Action by Hemisphere to Erase Communist Foothold

By **RICHARD EDER**

Special to The New York Times

CARACAS, Venezuela, Nov. 29—President Romulo Betancourt called today for an effort by Western Hemisphere nations to overturn the Government of Premier Fidel Castro.

In the toughest statement he has made on Cuba, President Betancourt said that it had become "necessary to have joint definite action to finish with this bridgehead of Communism in America."

Mr. Betancourt's speech coincides with the close of the Venezuelan election campaign, amid new threats by terrorists.

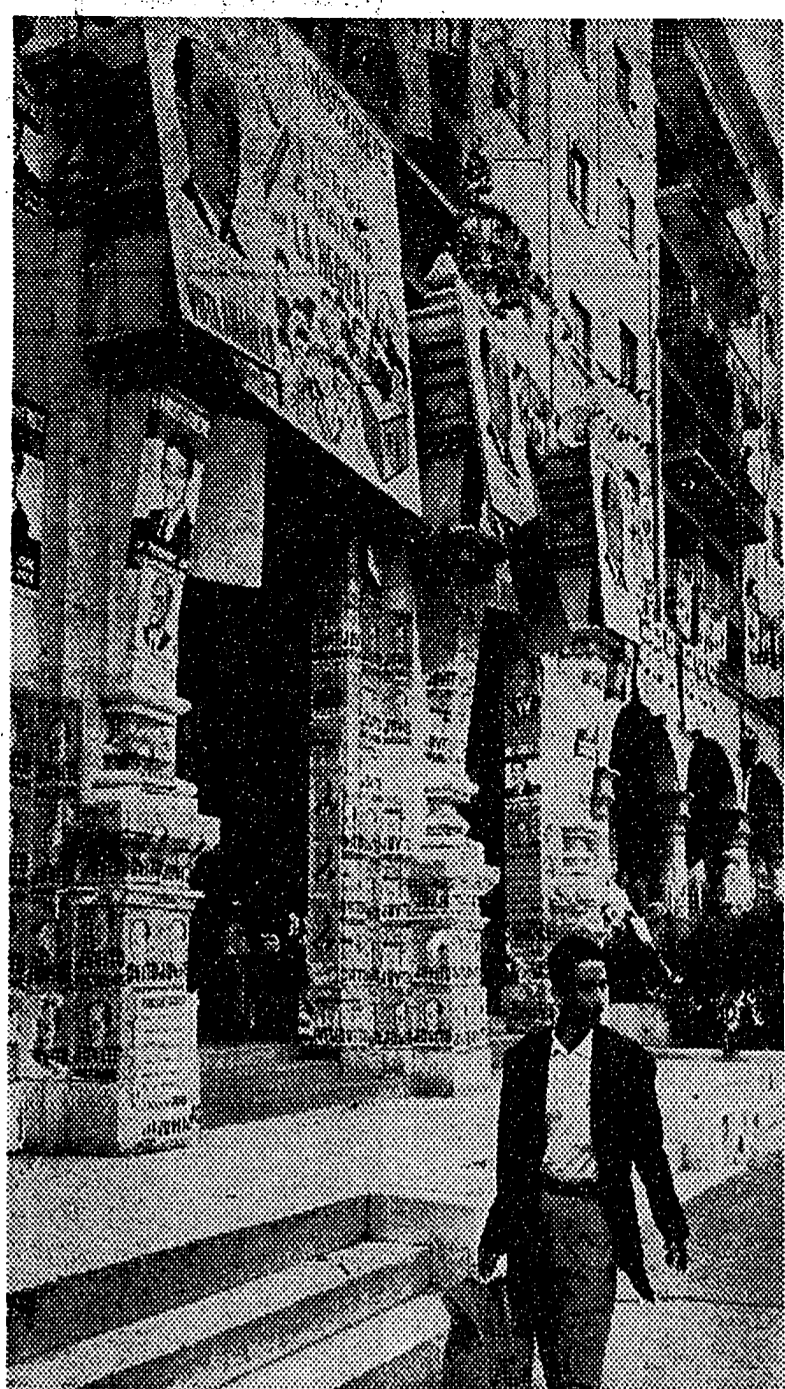
[In Washington the Administration pledged every effort to isolate Cuba and prevent the export of Communist subversion to the rest of Latin America.]

At noon today the Armed Forces of National Liberation sent a statement to news agencies saying that Col. James K. Chenault, an American kidnapped Wednesday, would be freed in exchange for the release of 70 women said to be held prisoner by the Government.

[The Associated Press reported an exchange offer, but said Colonel Chenault was to be traded for six persons who hijacked a plane Thursday and made the pilot fly it to Port of Spain, Trinidad. The six were returned to Caracas.]

The clandestine National Liberation force also announced

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United Press International

**ELECTIONEERING IN VENEZUELA:** A building in the downtown district of Caracas is covered with posters of the various candidates who are campaigning for office in Venezuela, where elections are to be held tomorrow.

## Venezuela Seeks O.A.S. Action To Overthrow Castro's Regime

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that anybody on the streets between midnight tonight and Tuesday morning would be shot.

The Government won a victory over the terrorists with the capture of Domingo Alberto Rangel, a leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, an extremely belligerent pro-Castro group that is heavily involved in anti-Government terrorism.

An order for Mr. Rangel's arrest was issued early in October. He had been in hiding since then.

Events of the last few days have all but obscured today's windup of the Presidential and Congressional election campaign.

This morning the six hijackers of the Convair passenger plane that had been flown to Trinidad were flown back under arrest in a Venezuelan Air Force plane.

Yesterday the Government produced evidence that three tons of arms landed on the Venezuelan coast early this month were of Cuban origin.

The Government has accused Cuba of aggression, and asked for a meeting of the Council of the Organization of American States under treaty provisions that could lead to drastic action.

### Strong Action Demanded

Mr. Betancourt's speech this morning confirmed that Venezuela was indeed seeking strong action.

"There will not be peace in the hemisphere as long as Fidel Castro exists in Cuba," the President said.

Latin-American ambassadors who attended the meeting at which arms with Cuban markings were produced have refused comment on the exhibits. It was disclosed today that the Mexican Ambassador had told Foreign Minister Marcos Falcón-Briceño that the evidence was "compelling."

Mexico is one of four Latin-American countries that still recognize Cuba.

Although the terrorists' threat to kill anybody on the street in the next two days is not likely to prevent the election, it may affect the turnout.

If the terrorists are successful in reducing the vote in Caracas, it will probably increase the margin for Raul Leoni, candidate of Mr. Betancourt's Democratic Action party. Caracas is a stronghold of the Opposition.

### Power Station Blown Up

CARACAS, Nov. 29 (UPI)—Pro-Castro terrorists blew up an electrical substation here tonight, blacking out one-fifth of the capital.

### U. S. Offers Cooperation

Special to The New York Times  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 — The Johnson Administration served notice today that it would continue to make every

effort to isolate Cuba and prevent the export of Communist subversion to the rest of Latin America.

In its first statement on Cuba since the new President took office, the Government made it clear that it was prepared to work in close cooperation with the other American republics "to thwart further attempts by the Castro regime to export arms."

At the same time, it reassured the hemisphere of continued United States aerial surveillance of Cuba "to keep watch over the aggressive intentions and capabilities of the Castro regime."

The American position was made plain in a State Department announcement offering to support Venezuela's request to the Organization of American States for stern collective action against Cuban attempts to spread subversion and terrorism in the hemisphere.

The Venezuelan Ambassador, Enrique Tejera Paris, in a note to the Organization of American States, formally asked that the Council of the organization hold an emergency session on Monday to hear charges that the Castro regime was guilty of aggression against his country.

The accusation is based on Venezuela's charge that a cache of three tons of modern automatic weapons, found early this month on the Paraganá peninsula, had come from Cuba.

The Administration seized on the incident to leave no doubt in Latin America that the change in the Presidency would in no way modify its policy toward Dr. Castro's regime.

### Finds Charges Confirmed

Without waiting for Venezuela to submit her evidence of Cuban intervention to the inter-American organization, the statement said the arms cache "is further dramatic confirmation that the Castro regime is pursuing an active policy of indirect aggression in this hemisphere."

The Venezuelan charges will be based on article 6 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance of 1947, generally called the Rio Treaty. The article provides that the American states shall consult when one of them is threatened by an aggression that is not an armed attack, or by any situation endangering hemisphere peace.

The Council must first vote to verify the charges of the accusing country. It can then go ahead with imposing a series of sanctions on the offender, ranging from moral condemnation to armed force.

### Cuba Denies Arms Aid

Dispatch of The Times, London  
HAVANA, Nov. 29—The Cuban Government denied today allegations that it was shipping arms to rebels in Venezuela.