

O.A.S. GROUP FINDS CUBAN AGGRESSION AGAINST CARACAS

**Says Havana Shipped Arms
to Venezuelans Seeking
to Overthrow Regime**

CORROBORATES CHARGE

**Report by Five-Nation Body
Will Be Basis for Calling
Conference on Sanctions**

*Conclusions of O.A.S. report
are given on Page 10.*

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 —

An investigating committee of the Organization of American States charged Cuba today with a "policy of aggression" against Venezuela.

The committee's 112-page report is designed to serve as the basis for convoking a conference of foreign ministers of the Western Hemisphere to seek sanctions against Cuba. It was presented to the Council of the O.A.S., acting as a ministerial-level "organ of consultation."

The report specifically accused Cuba of shipping a large cache of arms to Venezuela last fall for use in subversive operations to overthrow the Venezuelan Government.

The arms shipment, which according to the committee was surreptitiously landed at a solitary spot on the coast, included 20 bazookas, 5 mortars, 9 recoilless rifles, 31 submachine guns, 81 automatic rifles, 67 high-power demolition charges and a large amount of ammunition.

Engine's Origin Traced

The committee said it had uncovered evidence that the arms were taken from Cuba to Venezuela in a motorboat whose engine had been sent by air from Montreal to Havana last October. The boat was found near the spot on the coast of the Paraguaná Peninsula in the state of Falcón where the weapons had been buried.

The cache was discovered by a fisherman last Nov. 1. Venezuela formally charged Cuba with aggression before the O.A.S. Council on Nov. 29.

Although it had been believed that other arms shipments might have been received from Cuba, the Paraguaná Peninsula cache is the sole confirmed instance of such activity anywhere in the hemisphere.

It represents the first case of corroborated evidence on an important scale of Cuban subversive activities in Latin America. The report marks the first time that Cuba has been formally charged with a specific act of aggression by an O.A.S. body.

Dominicans Accused in '60

In 1960 an investigating committee from the inter-American organization found the Dominican Republic guilty of aggression in an attempt to assassinate Venezuela's President, Rómulo Betancourt.

That was the first such finding against a Latin-American Government in the history of the inter-American system. It led the Council to order sanctions against the Dominican regime.

In the Cuban case, a committee composed of Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Colombia and the United States was appointed to investigate Venezuela's charges. Its report today corroborated the charges.

The report said studies and experiments by the committee's military experts disclosed that efforts had been made by Cuba to obliterate Cuban markings on the weapons to "prevent their identification and hide their origin."

However, it said, affidavits provided by Belgian arms manufacturers established that the submachine guns and automatic rifles included in the seized cache had been sold to the Government of Premier Fidel Castro in 1959.

The report confirmed the Venezuelan charge that the weapons were apparently in-

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tended for the guerrillas and urban terrorists of the "Armed Forces of National Liberation," a subversive Communist - led organization that sought to prevent the presidential elections of Dec. 1.

In the weeks preceding the elections the organization set off a wave of terrorism, arson and killings throughout Venezuela, and warned citizens that they risked death if they went to vote.

According to the O.A.S. committee, Cuba encouraged and abetted this campaign through inflammatory broadcasts, the sending of instructions, the training of terrorists and the supply of funds and arms.

However, the terrorist campaign and the warnings had no effect and Venezuelans turned out in record numbers to elect Dr. Raúl Leoni to succeed President Betancourt. Dr. Leoni will be inaugurated March 11.

The committee's report said that three days after the arms cache was found, a plan of operations — the "Caracas Plan"—was discovered. It called for the capture of the Venezuelan capital, the report said, to prevent the elections and to seize control of the country.

The report includes a reproduction of the map of Caracas that served as the battle plan for the capture of the capital. This map and other documents were seized during the arrest by the Venezuelan police of Louis Eduardo Sanchez Madero, a Venezuelan citizen who was described as a member of the Communist party who secretly returned from Cuba late in 1962.

The plan called for the use of three military units, totaling 817 men, armed with cannon, mortars, bazookas and machine guns. Their task was the capture of military headquarters, prisons and radio stations.

Most Weapons Stolen

The arms smuggled from Cuba were to form only a part of the arsenal of the Armed Forces of National Liberation. The organization had been operating for two years, using mainly locally stolen weapons.

The intensity of terrorism in Venezuela declined sharply after the elections, but acts of sabotage and various attacks are still occurring.

In the light of the report, Venezuela's representative in the Organization of American States, Enrique Tejera Paris told the Council today that it was urgent that the hemisphere's foreign ministers punish Cuba under the provisions of the 1947 Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance. Venezuela is hopeful of action leading to sanctions against Cuba.

The Council adjourned to give the member Governments an opportunity to study the report. The prospects are that the Council will meet in March to set the date for a conference.