

# Latin-American Governments Adopt Wait-and-See Attitude On Explosive Guatemalan Revolution

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most Latin-American governments have discreetly avoided taking any official stand on the Guatemalan War which exploded on their doorsteps last week. But many political leaders, newspapers and leftist student groups throughout the southern lands are busily fanning resentment against the United States.

Government leaders have generally adopted a wait-and-see attitude, apparently desiring to offend neither the United States nor the embattled regime of Lefista President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman.

But many individual legislators make no bones of their belief that the United States is backing the rebel forces which seek to overthrow Arbenz' Communist-backed government.

There have been demonstrations against the United States in many of its southern neighbors since the war broke out, but most of them have been sparked by student groups which are traditionally Leftist.

The general trend of official sentiment was reflected in Argentina, where President Juan D. Peron's majority bloc in Congress proposed that American Parliaments work together to bring peace and "economic independence" to Guatemala.

The proposal indicated Argentina plans to steer an officially neutral course. But the anti-Peron Radical party, which controls only 14 seats in the 155-member House, tendered its sympathies to the Arbenz government.

The governments of Chile and Uruguay refrained from taking a stand even though their Parliaments had voted through resolutions

espousing the Arbenz cause.

The vote in Chile's Chamber of Deputies was 34-15, with the rest of 147 members abstaining. Foreign Minister Roberto Aldunate later told newsmen his government would not indulge in "lyric statements," but would express its views in international organizations "which know the problem."

Uruguayan government leaders also were close-mouthed, although their Colorado party fought hard in Parliament to defeat a resolution condemning "aggression in Guatemala." Despite this opposition, the resolution was adopted by two votes.

The government of Cuba—whose President Fulgencio Batista himself came to power on the tide of revolt—declined to make any comment. But earlier this week Ernesto de la Fe, a member of Batista's Cabinet, called on Cuba to recognize the insurgent government proclaimed by the Guatemalan rebel leader, Col. Carlos Castillo Armas.

Brazil also kept officially silent on the Guatemalan conflict. But it was Brazil which co-sponsored—with Colombia—a proposal to the U. N. Security Council Sunday which would have referred the issue to the Organization of American States. This proposal, strongly favored by the United States, was killed by a Soviet veto.

Venezuela remained officially aloof.

Costa Rica has declared that she intends to remain absolutely neutral in the conflict.

Honduras and Nicaragua have limited their official comment to denials of Guatemalan charges that they served as launching bases for

the invasion.

Latin-American newspapers, less restrained than their governments, reflected various shades of opinion. Comments included:

Argentina: La Epoca, which often expresses government views, said "world censure of the invasion is almost unanimous, because the invasion is seen as a danger to the liberty of a country to choose the government it desires." La Epoca also implied that the United States was to blame for the fighting in Guatemala.

Brazil: The opposition Diario Ca-

rioca commented, "it would be wise that the United States revise carefully the arguments which are serving to dramatize the case of Guatemala and justify continental intervention in the affairs of that republic."

British Honduras: The Belize Bill-board, organ of the recently victorious Peoples' United Party—which has close links with Arbenz, accused the United States of keeping Guatemala from bringing its second plea before the U. N. Security Council. It charged the United States with trying to prevent any form of U. N. aid for Arbenz's regime.

Uruguayan papers generally blasted the Arbenz regime as a Communist threat, but they also criticized the United States for its diplomatic policy.

Mexico City's leading newspaper Excelsior has come out strongly against the Arbenz government, although Mexicans generally have sympathized with the Guatemalan President.

In Chile, Santiago's Conservative newspaper El Mercurio also has roundly criticized Arbenz.

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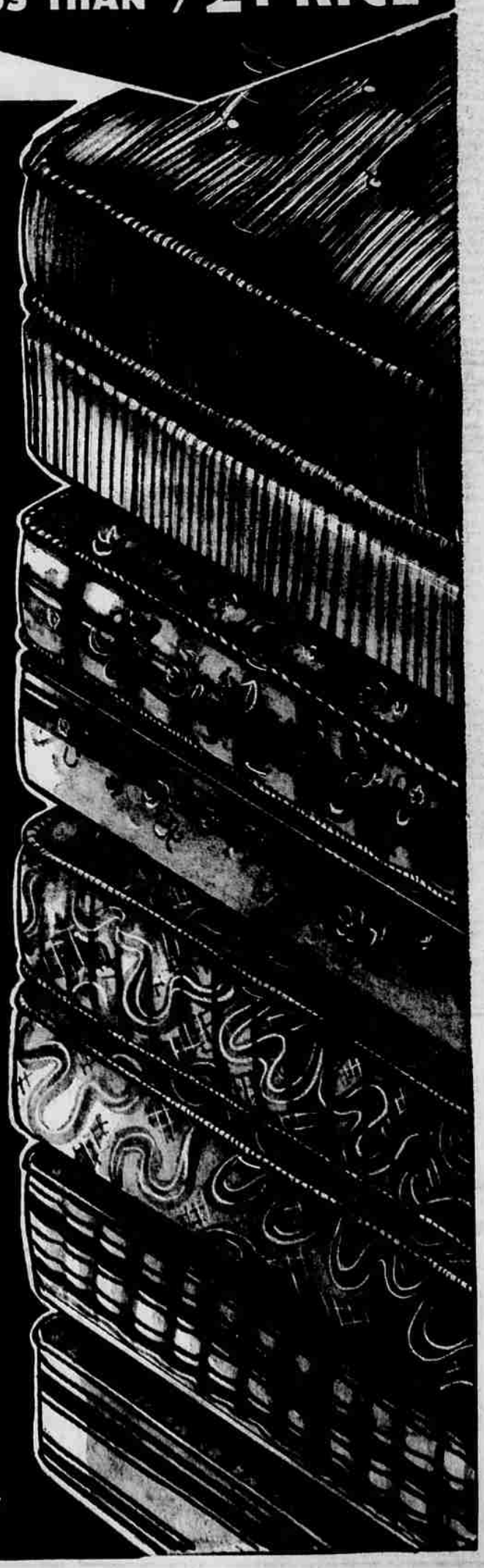
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