

Organization of American States



Latin American Fire Alarm Sounds Again For Council

WASHINGTON (AP)—Twenty dark-suited diplomats gather regularly around a U-shaped green baize covered table in the cream and crystal "Hall of the Americas" here.

They talk—in Spanish and one each in English, French and Portuguese—while a slim handful of spectators watch, and tourists wander through, curious but uncomprehending.

This is the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), the directive body of one of the world's oldest and—some say—least known international organizations.

The 21 ambassadors represent the 21 republics of the Americas, united in the OAS (see map) to preserve peace and promote progress in the hemisphere.

The fire alarm—that there is the possibility of war within the Americas—sounds when a nation which feels menaced appeals to the council.

It asks, generally, that the council invoke the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, signed September 2, 1947, in Rio de Janeiro, and call a meeting of foreign ministers to consider this threat to peace.

Meanwhile the OAS council itself can act—usually by sending on-the-spot investigators who can bring the two parties together. But it also can request other members to furnish armed forces—planes, ships and men—if it feels that necessary.

Alternative procedures permit reference of the dispute to a five-nation peace committee, or, in more serious cases, a convocation.

Eight times since the Rio pact was signed, the fire alarm has rung. There was a 1948 dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua; a 1950 situation involving Haiti and the Dominican Republic; the Guatemalan situation in 1954; a dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in 1955, and Honduras and Nicaragua in 1957.

In each case, the OAS acted promptly. Both President Eisenhower and the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles have said it was one of the free world's most effective organizations.

Dulles, in fact, was fond of noting that the OAS provided the pattern for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and for the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

This year—because of the wave of unrest touched off by Cuba's successful revolution—has been one of crisis for the OAS. In late April, Panama invoked the Rio pact. An OAS mission arranged the surrender of 80 invaders.

Then, in June, Nicaragua made a similar request. An information

committee prepared a report. Early in July, the Dominican Republic denounced Cuba and Venezuela for plotting against it, and asked the application of the Rio pact.

After lengthy debate the council decided the foreign ministers had best review the whole Caribbean situation. The ministers now are scheduled to meet in Santiago, Chile, around mid-August.

The fire-fighting political activities, of course, are only a part of the work of the OAS. In recent years, it has sought—with some success—to play a more important role in economic affairs.

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In reviewing the accomplishments of the organization, Eisenhower once remarked:

"Ours is an historic and meaningful unity. It has been—for our whole continent—an honest and productive unity. It can be for other areas of the world—a prophetic and inspiring unity. For it is triumphant testimony, before all the world, that peace and trust and fellowship can rule the conduct of all nations, large and small, who will respect the life and dignity of each other."

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Japan Sadly Recalls Start Of Atomic Age

TOKYO (UPI)—Japan has not forgotten—not by a long shot—that 14 years ago this week the atomic age was launched with the death of 70,130 persons in Hiroshima, Japan.

But slightly, ever so slightly, public opinion is changing.

The Japanese still are horrified over that first atomic bomb strike on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, where, in addition to the staggering death toll, 37,423 persons were injured and 12,003 were listed as missing.

The Hiroshima attack was followed three days later by the second atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki in which 73,884 persons were killed. Five days later Japan surrendered.

The Japanese are hardly allowed to forget the twin horror because many still are dying of the diseases caused by atomic radiation—and this always makes news in Japan.

But the fervor against atomic weapons is slowly calming.

In Japan, the only country ever to suffer atomic warfare, the anti-nuclear weapon campaign has not always been in sole possession of the Communists and their fellow travelers as has been the case in many other countries.

Indeed, Tory Party leaders, from Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi on down, have issued statements from time to time deploring atomic weapons. Japan's United Nations delegation has been in the forefront of the campaign to outlaw atomic tests.

This year, two significant events have taken place which have great bearing and effect upon public opinion so far as it regards the anti-nuclear weapons campaign.

They are:

1. The Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly voted to cut off subsidies to the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

which is holding its annual meeting in Hiroshima this week.

2. The leaders of the council agreed to draw up plans to oppose the revision of the U.S.-Japan security treaty as part of its anti-nuclear campaign.

The first move shows clearly that Japanese government officials at last are beginning to dissociate themselves from the council. The second move shows just as clearly that the left-wingers finally have captured the group.

By mixing up the anti-nuclear campaign with the U.S.-Japan security treaty revisions negotiations, the council leaders have offended a large segment of Japanese public opinion who feel strongly that there is no connection between the two issues. The leftist leadership of the anti-bomb council has become so pronounced that it has offended many sober, middle-of-the-road-backers.

These left-wingers are trying to peddle the line that revision of the security treaty will open up Japan for the introduction of nuclear weapons. This, according to Tory leaders and Americans who should know, is patently false.

Actually, although it never has been defined publicly or officially, American officials are leaning more and more toward the idea that it would be better to keep nuclear weapons out of Japan.

Eisenhower To Visit NATO Powers

PARIS (AP)—President Eisenhower is expected to meet with representatives of all the North Atlantic powers when he visits France late this month to see President Charles de Gaulle. Some circles were suggesting that Eisenhower attend a meeting of the 15-nation North Atlantic Council at which the NATO foreign ministers represent their countries.

VIRUS

LONDON (AP)—British scientists claim they have isolated a virus that develops trachoma—the greatest single cause of blindness—and for the first time proved it by developing the disease in a human volunteer.

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