

VISIT OF PRESIDENT ELECT DIAZ ORDAZ
TO LBJ RANCH, November 12-13, 1964

Background Paper

MEXICO AND RELATIONS WITH CUBA

Mexico has not to date honored its obligations under the Rio Treaty and maintains diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba despite the mandatory sanctions imposed by the 9th Meeting of Foreign Ministers called by the Organization of American States. Mexico remains the only OAS member to continue such relations.

In his State of the Union message to the Mexican Congress on September 1, outgoing President Lopez Mateos challenged the juridical correctness of the sanctions imposed by the 9th Meeting of Foreign Ministers and reaffirmed his decision to maintain relations with Cuba. He asserted that Mexico would abide by a decision on this matter by the International Court of Justice if the Court's opinion were requested by another nation. No such request has been made and, in view of the harmful effects to the OAS and the inter-American system of appealing a decision by the Meeting of Foreign Ministers, none is likely.

The action of Lopez Mateos has made it somewhat difficult for Diaz Ordaz, inasmuch as a break with Cuba in the first months of the new administration would be an open rebuke for Lopez Mateos to whom Diaz Ordaz owes his presidential nomination. However, it is expected that the Diaz Ordaz Administration will review carefully Mexico's Cuba policy and may find a way in its own time and its own way to sever relations.

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