## Venezuela, in O.A.S., Accuses Castro of Plot

By HENRY RAYMONTSpecial to The New York Times New York Times (1857-Current file); Jan 4, 1964; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 20 pg. 3

## Venezuela, in O.A.S., Accuses Castro of Plot

## By HENRY RAYMONT

Special to The New York Times WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 — Venezuela has given the Organization of American States the outline of a far-ranging insurrectional plan that she says was fashioned in Cuba.

Documents purporting to show the terrorist plan were brought here by Dr. Marcos Falcón-Briceño, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, in an unpublicized visit.

Dr. Falcon-Briceno reported on the plan during a closed session yesterday of a special O.A.S. committee investigating Venezuela's charges that Cuba has committed aggression by inciting and supporting Venezuelan terrorists.

His account of alleged preparations by Cuban-trained agents to effect the systematic destruction of Caracas and to launch a scorched-earth campaign in the interior deeply shocked members of the fivenation committee.

The plan—divided into two phases — was purportedly designed to force the overthrow of the Government of President Rómulo Betancourt on the eve of last month's Venezuelan election, the Foreign Minister asserted.

It failed, he told the committee, because Venezuelan authorities discovered a large arms cache that was to have been used by the terrorists for their Operation Caracas.

In this first stage of the plot, about 370 terrorists were allegedly to have attacked fedMinister Says Cuban-Trained Agents Planned to Attack Caracas and Interior

eral buildings and police and army barracks in the capital. Two-hundred suspects, many of them poorly equipped, were arrested.

The second stage, known as Operation Loto, envisaged widespread sabotage operations in the interior, including setting fire to oil fields and mountain forests, the Foreign Minister said.

Dr. Falcón-Briceño identified Luis Eduardo Sanchez Mercado and Col. Juan de Dios Moncada Vidal as chiefs of the two operations. Both are under arrest.

Mr. Sanchez Mercado is a Communist who returned last March from Cuba, where he was trained in sabotage techniques, the minister said. Colonel Moncada Vidal was described as a rightist who served on the chiefs of staff of the Venezuelan Army during the rule of the dictator, Gen Marcos Pérez Jiménez.

President Betancourt has been a stanch advocate of the Alliance for Progress, the 10year program of economic and social development in Latin America instituted by President Kennedy.

Dr. Falcón Briceño stressed that the discovery of the arms and of the terrorist plans proved that Venezuela was chosen as the chief target of a drive by the Cuban Premier, Fidel Castro, to promote revolutions in Latin America.

The Foreign Minister supplied to the committee 150 pages of transcribed broadcasts of Havana Radio and copies of public statements by Cuban leaders, which praised the terrorist activities of the Army of National Liberation in Venezuela. These statements also urged workers and peasants to join in insurrectional activities, according to the data presented.

Additional evidence was presented to the committee in support of Venezuela's contention that the arms cache found on a remote beach along the Caribbean coast Nov. 2 had been smuggled from Cuba. It was learned that Dr. Falcón-Briceño reported that Venezuela had traced a powerful outboard motor found near the weapons to a Canadian manufacturer who had sold it to the Cuban Government.

The committee is consulting its members to determine how to obtain Cuba's side of the story. The Cuban Government, excluded from the O.A.S. because of its declared adherence to Marxism-Leninism, has refused to acknowledge communications from the regional body.

Committee members estimated that their report would be concluded in late January or early February. It is expected to prepare the way for a special meeting of hemispheric foreign ministers in which new sanctions against the Cuban regime probably will be sought.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.