

# 15,000 Attend Upstate Rally Against Castro

UNION CITY (AP) — Up to 15,000 anti-Castro Cuban-Americans marched through city streets here Monday in protest of possible easing of sanctions against Cuba at an OAS conference meeting in Quito, Ecuador.

The demonstrators, carrying flags and signs, paraded past closed stores here and in neighboring West New York. The area has the second largest concentration of Cuban-Americans in the country.

Police said the crowd, described as peaceful, varied from 6,000 to a high of 15,000. At one time, according to police, nine blocks were filled with marchers from sidewalk to sidewalk. They said vehicular traffic was rerouted.

Along the parade route stores and factories, many owned or managed by Cuban-Americans, were closed for the day or shutdown during the march. School officials said the absentee rate was 57 per cent here and 50 per cent in West New York.

The rallies were scheduled to coincide with Monday's OAS conference meeting.

A similar rally was held in Elizabeth, another North Jersey community with a high concentration of Cuban-Americans. Police there said about 1,000 persons gathered for a rally at city hall where a homemade Russian flag was burned.