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On Feb. 16, six US congressional representatives submitted a resolution to Congress which calls on President Bill Clinton to pressure the UN to declare an "obligatory" international embargo against Cuba. In effect, the resolution seeks to internationalize the US's 30-year-old embargo, which was strengthened last year by the Cuban Democracy Act, signed into law by former president George Bush in October 1992. The law dubbed the Torricelli Law after its congressional author Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) tightens the embargo by prohibiting US subsidiaries that operate in third countries from trading with Cuba, while barring foreign merchant ships that travel to the island from docking at US ports for six months (see Chronicle 11/05/92). In fact, Torricelli is also a co-sponsor of this new resolution, which was drafted by two Cuban-American legislators: Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.). The other sponsors are Sen. Connie Mack (R-Fla.), Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.), and Rep. Robert Menendez (D-NJ). The resolution which will enter congressional sub-committees for debate in March would stress that the "massive, systematic, and extraordinary human rights violations committed by the Castro government [constitute] a threat to international peace." That would be used as a justification for the Clinton administration to lobby the UN to enforce an "obligatory" international embargo similar to the blockades imposed on Rhodesia, South Africa, Iraq, and the former Yugoslavia. "The US embargo has been tightened, but that is not enough," said Sen. Mack. "The US must completely isolate the Castro regime by giving an international character to the embargo." According to its sponsors, should the resolution pass in Congress, it would likely be backed by Clinton, since the President enthusiastically supported the Torricelli Law during the US election campaign last year. "Following the elections, Clinton personally expressed to me his commitment to the liberation of Cuba," said Rep. Diaz-Balart. Still, even if the resolution is approved by both Congress and the executive, the US would almost certainly fail in pushing the UN to declare an embargo against Cuba. The Torricelli Law angered even the staunchest US allies last year, since it imposed sanctions on US subsidiaries operating in their countries and threatened retaliation against non-US ships that trade with Cuba. The international backlash culminated in a UN General Assembly resolution in November that called for an end to the US embargo (see Chronicle 12/03/92). (Sources: Agence France-Presse, 02/16/93; Associated Press, 02/17/93; Reuter, 02/16/93, 02/19/93)