By HAROLD J. LIDIN

The official opinion of the Fidel Castro regime that Puerto Rico should be independent fired a heated debate in yesterday's sessions of the Inter-American Cultural Council.

A resolution stating that "full political independence is indispensable in America", submitted by chief Cuban delegate Silvino Soreghui, was narrowly defeated by a vote of four to three, with two nations abstaining.

The Soreghui motion, which he stressed reflects the official viewpoint of the Cuban government, further charged that "without full sovereignty there does not exist the elements for development of a genuine culture."

The Cuban resolution was favored by Venezuela and Honduras, opposed by Nicaragua, the United States, Brazil, and Panama. The Cuban delegate, Soreghui, who headed the Castro fund-raising campaign in Puerto Rico during 1968, admitted that Puerto Rico constitutes a nationality and a culture, but insisted that "independence for Puerto Rico would raise the level of Puerto Rican culture."

Soreghui's resolution did not surprise observers. Several days ago he delivered a speech similar in vein before the Council.

Last Tuesday night, Soreghui met with the high command of the Movimiento Pro-independencia de Puerto Rico (MPP). (See DELEGATE, Page 3)