



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 876

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, July 7, 1945.

SECRET

Subject: Situation on the Haitian-Dominican Frontier.

PLANNING, EDITING  
AND REFERENCE  
a.r.h.  
to file SEP 25 1945  
DIVISION OF GEOGRAPHY & CARTOGRAPHY  
\* DEPARTMENT OF STATE \*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to transmit herewith as of interest to the Department, the text of a memorandum dated July 5, 1945, addressed to me by Lieutenant Commander Taylor, the Naval Attaché of this Embassy. In this memorandum Commander Taylor describes his visit to Ouanaminthe, the chief Haitian frontier town in the northeastern part of the Republic, where a strong garrison is stationed. The entire document is deserving of the Department's consideration. I wish, however, to invite attention to the statement that conditions are quiet along that part of the border and that the underbrush and other vegetation along the boundary line where it is not formed by the Massacre River has been cleaned by the international commission which was appointed by both governments last year (see my despatch no. 368 of November 17, 1944). It is also interesting to note that the boundary appears to be respected by both Haitians and Dominicans and that private property holdings are carefully delimited and do not overlap the frontier.

Respectfully yours,

*Orme Wilson*  
Orme Wilson

Enclosure:  
1/ Copy of memorandum  
dated July 5, 1945.

File: 800.D  
OW/ham

To the Department in ozalid.  
cc: Amembassy, Ciudad Trujillo.  
Central Intelligence File.

AIR MAIL Enclosure no. 1 to despatch no. 876 dated July 7,  
1945, from the Embassy, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

COPY

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
Office of the Naval Attaché

CONFIDENTIAL

5 July 1945.

MEMORANDUM TO THE AMBASSADOR:

I have just returned with Mr. Baker from Ouanaminthe, where we visited with Captain Georges Bayard, Commanding Officer of the Garde d'Haiti post there. He advised me that there have been no incidents of any kind in his area and that the entire section is, and has been, quiet.

Captain Bayard said he was just completing the last of his five outpost guard houses along the frontier. The first is located at the mouth of the Massacre River, forming the boundary line between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and the other four at intervals along the border, particularly where the Massacre River ceases to act as the boundary line. He thought they were approximately 40 kilometers between stations; but that is probably incorrect, as the map indicates it is only approximately 100 kilometers from the mouth of the Massacre River to the end of the Department of the North. Consequently, they would appear to be only 20 kilometers, or 10-12 miles, apart. He expects to have the last of these completed by the end of July.

He states that the boundary line, where it is not formed by the Massacre River, has been cleaned out for a distance of six meters, which forms a no-man's-land between the two countries, and a line of trees has been planted in the center so as to mark the boundary line very definitely. Boundary lines of the private properties of both Dominicans and Haitians abut this boundary line only to the edge of the so-called no-man's-land. He states there is no disposition on the part of either Haitians or Dominicans in the area to cross the boundary line, except for the few instances where there have been the usual crossings by thieves from one country or the other. According to him, there is very little smuggling going on.

He states that each guard house is manned by five soldiers who patrol the border constantly on muleback.

He said that he did not know of any new airfield under construction at Dajabon, opposite Ouanaminthe, but that there had been an airfield there and it may have been improved. The airfield at Ouanaminthe will be improved as soon as the prisoners finish the construction of the last guard house, in a month or so, and it will take approximately three months to get the field at Ouanaminthe in shape to be used by the smallest of the Haitian planes. We did not visit the airfield, as it is some distance from the town, and part of the way you have to go by foot now.

Captain Bayard

AIR MAIL

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Captain Bayard has constructed, since my last visit, a guard house and a Customs House at the gateway leading to the international bridge between the two countries, connecting Guanaminthe with Dajabon. It is about 200 yards from this gate to the Haitian entrance to the bridge, which is a fine cement structure. The Dominican guard house is directly in front of the Dominican end of the international bridge. It comprises a fair-sized cement structure about 150 feet long, with an archway in the center through which all vehicles must pass. It appears to house a Dominican guard complement and the usual Customs and Immigration offices.

In Guanaminthe there is a resident Dominican Consul, whose wife, incidentally, is a relative of a Mr. Gonzales, who is employed by the Plantation Dauphin.

The Captain stated that the policy of non-fraternization between the Haitian guard and the Dominican guard which began about a year ago still continues; but otherwise there appears to be no particular lack of cordiality between officials of the two countries. The Captain is living in Guanaminthe with his wife and four children, and the Dominican Consul also lives there with his family.

There is every appearance of the quiet that the Captain states exists.

FRANCIS E. TAYLOR,  
Lt. Comdr., USNR

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