

NSC BRIEFING

25X1 24 August 1960

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

I. OAS decision of 21 August to apply sanctions on Dominican Republic brought prompt injured-innocence expression of "shock" from Trujillo's puppet, President Balaguer--but no indications regime will relinquish control or mend its ways.

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B. Haiti's foreign minister fears Trujillo may take some retaliatory action against Haiti because of its refusal to support Dominicans at the OAS foreign ministers meeting--and this fear probably is well founded.

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C. Since the OAS decision, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, ^{(Nicaragua,} and Panama have broken diplomatic relations with the Dominicans; eight other LA nations had halted diplomatic relations some time earlier.

II. US Embassy reports pro-US Dominican dissidents elated over US stand at San José conference.

A. Some leading dissidents gave Embassy memorandum of 23 August urging immediate boycott of Dominican exports, arguing this would least hurt Dominican people while most seriously affecting government.

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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1. Claims, correctly, that Trujillo family monopolizes production of leading export commodities (sugar, coffee, cacao, meat), and export income therefore largely benefits dictator.
2. Also says export commodities now in country are valued at \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 and can be easily stored "for several months"--and then be valuable asset for new regime, since Trujillo expected to steal most available money.
3. States that "since dictator is conceited person and always ready commit any kind of atrocity to obtain desires," sanctions must be quick and drastic to halt his destruction of the country.

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B.

[redacted] as expressing belief Dominican armed forces will not support Trujillo in showdown.

1. But Embassy advises caution on this, noting report is first of its kind [redacted]

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III. Dominican Radio Caribe reported on 23 August that negotiations to obtain information services of TASS have been opened in order to "prevent information services from being silenced by imperialist interests opposing Dominican people"; and other reports suggest Trujillo may be seeking to align himself with USSR or Castro, or both.

- A. Trujillo, previously self-described as strongest anti-Communist in area, is vindictive man perfectly capable of such a switch.
- B. But Moscow likely to be cautious in responding to any Dominican overtures, especially in view of unanimous vote at OAS meeting.

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