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OCI No. 1613/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
6 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #172 - As of 8:00 pm EDT)

1. Ambassador Bennett reports receiving several reliable reports today of growing tension in Caamano headquarters. Aristy, the self-styled "political advisor" of Caamano who has been appointed minister of the presidency in the rebel cabinet, apparently is dominating Caamano more and more and "barks orders to him like a top sergeant." Caamano gives the impression of being dazed, according to these reports.

At one point today, Aristy sent a message to Bennett through a US relief worker. He said, "Tell the ambassador that we control the situation now, but if we lose prestige, we will lose control." He also said that a "third force," meaning a new junta, would be unacceptable. Aristy said, "I intend that Caamano will fill out Bosch's term." Then there would be free elections. Ambassador Bennett comments that he believes Aristy could be bought off at the proper moment.

2. Rebel-held "Radio Santo Domingo" resumed broadcasting at 6:20 pm EDT with no explanation of why broadcasting had ceased for an hour [redacted] Broadcasting, when it resumed, was barely audible and could not be copied, according to the Foreign Broadcasting Information Service.

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State Dept. review completed

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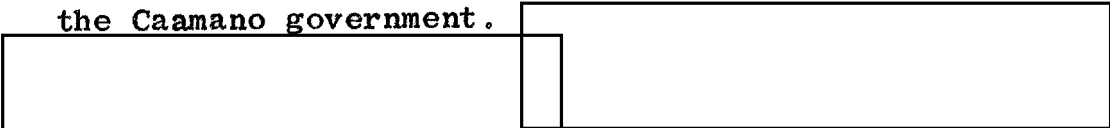


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3. Ambassador Bennett reports that he has received a letter from loyalist military junta leader Colonel Benoit requesting permission for the aircraft of the Dominican Air Force now located in Puerto Rico to return to San Isidro air-base.

4. US Ambassador Telles in Costa Rica reports that President Orlich told him this morning Costa Rica was ready to send a "symbolic" contingent to take part in the Inter-American Armed Force. The Costa Rican contingent will consist of some 20 men from the country's 1,800-man Civil Guard.

5. Lieutenant Colonel Jose Nelton Gonzalez Pomares, who has been the Dominican Air Attaché in Washington since February 1962, has been appointed the Chief of Staff of the Dominican Air Force in the Caamano government.



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An experienced pilot, he has received US training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, and jet pilot flight training at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama. Gonzalez is reportedly popular with Dominican Air Force junior officers.

6. Ambassador Bennett stated today that about 1,300 Americans, including Puerto Ricans, still remain in the Dominican Republic. Assuming no deterioration in the general situation the ambassador believes that relatively few, perhaps up to 200, will seek evacuation and these will be mostly Puerto Ricans.



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