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OCI No. 1619/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
7 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic

(Report #177 - Summary of Situation
from 9:00 pm EDT - 5:00 am EDT)

1. [redacted] as of 4:00 am EDT the US Embassy had experienced no sniper fire since yesterday afternoon. Sporadic shooting, however, continues in Santo Domingo's downtown area. Confirmed US casualties now total 12 dead and 58 wounded.

2. The US Embassy reports that in a surprise move, Colonel Benoit's loyalist junta moved into the Municipal Building across from the Congressional Palace at the fair grounds in the southwestern section of the city yesterday afternoon. As of 11:00 pm EDT on 6 May Benoit had not yet moved staff or support units to the new location. The move should greatly improve the junta's previously inadequate communications and facilitate its operations.

3. According to the US Embassy, since US forces arrived in the Dominican Republic they have taken 243 rebels into custody. Those who were captured in action appear to be determined, trained professional insurgents. The non-professional rebels and young people who joined the revolt for thrills--who were picked up or turned themselves in--have been released after a search and a minimal check. The bulk of the prisoners were captured during the period of 1-5 May, mainly in the area of the Duarte bridgehead. Some were also captured along the Line of Communication and in the International Safety Zone.

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4. Captured rebel officers who were interrogated by the Dominican police reportedly state that they only planned to overthrow the Reid regime and replace it with a military junta. All officers denied any knowledge of foreign Communist participation in the revolt. They assert that the Communists took control of the movement through the street mobs. The captured officers agree that US intervention was justified because public order had collapsed. They assert that attacks by the Dominican Air Force had halted negotiations and incited the people to continue the fight.

5. The French Ambassador in Santo Domingo believes that events are following the "classic Communist pattern," according to the US Embassy. The Ambassador commented that if De Gaulle recognizes the rebel regime it will not be on the basis of his reports. He added that the European chiefs of mission in Santo Domingo hold a common view regarding the extremist nature of the Caamano regime and the Communist direction at its base.

6. The US Embassy reports that two separate groups of Dominicans independently are seeking ways to sabotage the rebel-controlled Radio Santo Domingo. One group is the more moderate wing of the Social Christian Revolutionary Party (PRSC) and the other is not identified. In addition, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Jose Mora is said to be seeking to neutralize the programming of the rebel radio stations as well as Wessin's station at San Isidro. Ambassador Bennett comments that if Mora's efforts are not effective, the US may have to consider extending the Line of Communication to include Radio Santo Domingo.

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