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OCI No. 1650/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
7 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report #184 - Summary of the Situation  
from 11:00 am EDT - 1:00 pm EDT)

1. The US Embassy in Santo Domingo reports in a situation wrap-up of early today that the Caamano group is continuing to use the cease-fire to strengthen its position; it is aided by the lack of any organized political force on the loyalist side. According to the embassy, this political vacuum plays into the hands of the rebels and gives them the opportunity for pre-emptive action which damages the junta's position. Although the rebels are few in number and relatively weak, time works in their favor because of the psychological advantage they gain from pre-emption of the concept of "constitutionality," the use of "Radio Santo Domingo," and because of the political advantage they have gained from the cease-fire. The cease-fire has allowed the rebels to consolidate their position and to take measures to exploit the thesis that they are a "government."

2. The embassy also states that "Radio Santo Domingo" has, since it returned to operation, repeatedly broadcast violent Bosch speeches and exhortations, including a "bitter personal attack" on the US Ambassador. Friendly Dominicans consider, and the embassy concurs, that these broadcasts are tremendously damaging, and they continue to wonder why the US permits Bosch to encourage "Dominican fratricide" from a safe haven in US territory.

3. The embassy concludes that in this situation the most important, and "well-nigh only," new counter remaining to the rebel initiative is "to get a functioning de facto government into existence." The continuance of the present vacuum carries the danger that the rebel cause may be strengthened in the countryside. The embassy believes that getting a government into operation should be feasible; the loyalist forces effectively control the entire country, except for a tiny rebel enclave in Santo Domingo. This, plus control of the countryside and the cooperation that could be expected from the US, gives the loyalists important assets. However, the embassy notes that no government "can function headless."

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4. The embassy states further that perhaps a revamped junta can be formed today in light of a firm agreement last night by Carlos Grisolia, an outstanding member of the conservative National Civic Union Party and the leading intellectual in the Senate under the Bosch regime, and the tentative agreement of Rafael Battle Vinas to serve in such a government. In any case, the embassy intends to push hard.

5. Concerning the military situation, the embassy reports that bursts of heavy machinegun fire were heard from the area of the city last night and early this morning.

6. The US Ambassador to the UN reports that he has been informed that Moises de Soto Martinez, presently the alternate UN delegate from the Dominican Republic, upon receiving notice of his "appointment" as permanent delegate by the Caamano "government, had refused to take the post. This may confirm earlier feelings that at least some of Caamano's "appointments" had not been cleared with the persons concerned before being made.

7. The US Embassy in Santo Domingo is having difficulties getting the facts and background of the present situation across to US and Latin American newsmen who are now arriving in droves. The embassy reported early today that "We are suffering because of the impossibility of providing incontrovertible proof, which is consistently demanded by the press here, for our allegations." The press is welcome at rebel headquarters to see and interview the rebel leadership, thus permitting them to weigh the US case "against the flesh and blood testimony of romantic rebel chieftains."

8. The US Embassy in Mexico has noted that in news columns of the past two days, Colonel Caamano is receiving very heavy publicity describing him as "interim president" and his followers as "constitutionalists." Other possible contenders, including the military junta, are practically neglected with the result that the Mexican public is doubtlessly gaining the impression that Caamano is emerging as the logical choice to head a new Dominican Government.

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