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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
4 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report #260 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

Santo Domingo was quiet during the night. Political activity remained at a low key and the military situation did not change significantly.

The rebels continued to press their propaganda campaign against the US and loyalist forces. The stepped up pace of radio and press charges of alleged atrocities and cease-fire violations has been accompanied by acts of provocation such as the rebel attacks on loyalist police and military posts in the southwestern part of the country on the night of 2 June. On the same night rebel forces directed heavy fire against US forces along the east bank of the Ozama River.

Caamano's camp apparently is trying to present a picture of unrest in the interior to discredit loyalist claims that they control all of the country except the downtown section of Santo Domingo. In addition, they hope to win international sympathy as a dedicated group of patriots beseiged by a host of "repressive" forces. A rebel rally is scheduled to be held on Saturday "to demonstrate to the world our unbreakable determination to fight to the death for the return to constitutionality."

This intensified rebel psychological offensive coincides with the arrival yesterday evening of the three-nation Organization of American States (OAS) Commission. An OAS human rights group is already in Santo Domingo and today the UN Security Council is scheduled to resume debate on Soviet charges that human rights are being violated in the Dominican Republic.

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On the loyalist side, little effort is being made to counter rebel charges or to give its version of the story. Military leaders are said to appear weary and dejected and are becoming increasingly convinced that only direct military action can solve the situation.

Ambassador Bennett comments that he has failed to uncover any widespread sentiment for the "constitutionalist" cause among Dominican peasants who comprise approximately 70 percent of the country's population. On the contrary, information from the countryside indicates that many people hope for a return of former president Joaquin Balaguer who to them represents order, security, and enlightened paternalism. Ambassador Bennett notes that this general image is obviously at considerable variance with that projected by the "constitutionalist" camp.

Whatever may be the real extent of popular support for the Caamano movement, Bennett reports that important and highly vocal elements of Dominican society are strongly opposed. A significant segment of the business and professional classes, civic leaders in Santo Domingo and Santiago, most Church leaders, one wing of the Social Christian Party and other moderate forces have made it abundantly clear that a "constitutionalist" victory would be a national disaster and presage a Castro/Communist takeover.

This attitude, however, does not constitute automatic support for Imbert or the extreme right. Rather, it is based on the conviction that some compromise must be found between the two extremes.

Ambassador Bennett states that there currently appears to be no way to present the Guzman formula except as a "constitutionalist" victory. As originally conceived, the formula was to provide national accord through the establishment of a broad-based government generally acceptable to a broad spectrum of Dominican opinion, excluding only the extreme right and left. However, suspicions have now hardened and most "non-constitutionalists" believe that acceptance of the formula would represent a victory for Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD).

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In a recent conversation with a US official, Hector Garcia Godoy, a foreign minister in Bosch's cabinet, stated that he does not believe Guzman will be able to form a government that is acceptable to a majority of the Dominican people, much less the loyalists. Garcia commented that however well intentioned Guzman may be, he is an intimate of Juan Bosch and would be only a Bosch puppet.

No new violence has been noted in the interior. The payment of salaries to government employees and day workers continues. US officials visiting Santiago, Bonao, Monte Cristi and Dajabon on 3 June reported these cities and surrounding areas to be calm.

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