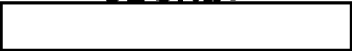


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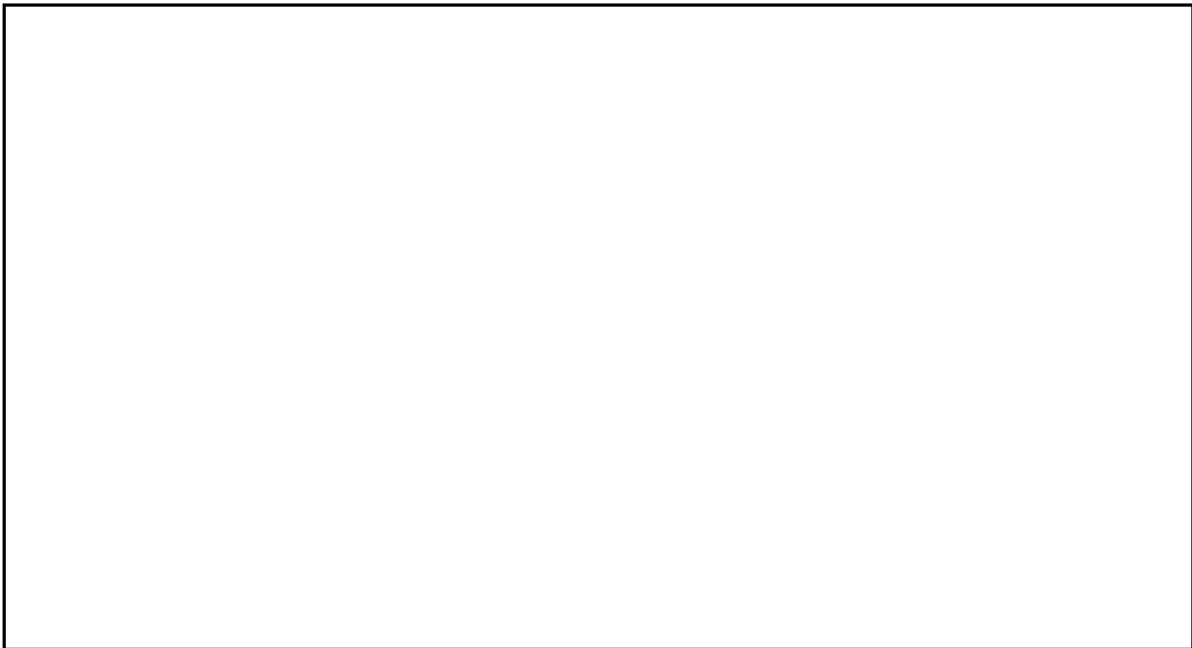
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
18 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #280 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

The special OAS committee plans today to submit to the Dominican people its proposals for the settlement of the crisis, a move that is likely to prompt initial opposition from both Dominican governments, but particularly from the rebels.

Nevertheless, resistance to the plan in the rebel camp is likely to be weakened by the deteriorating morale there that has set in since the upsurge in fighting began last Tuesday.



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There are widespread rumors in the rebel area of disagreements between the two top rebel leaders, Caamano

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and Colonel Manuel Montes Arache. There is also said to be a growing restlessness among the older people in the rebel area because of the restrictions placed on them by the rebel authorities. These people are also said to be openly critical of Caamano and other rebel leaders whose families are safe in the International Safety Zone. (Caamano's wife, for instance, has been safe in the Argentine embassy since the first days of the insurrection.)

Non-Communist adherents of the rebel cause are now speaking in less hopeful terms. For instance, Manuel Fernandez, the Caamano-appointed mayor of Santo Domingo, broadcast on the rebel radio yesterday a short speech in which he admitted the possibility of defeat. He spent most of his time denying allegations that he is a Communist. He repeated the bitter rebel charges of US "aggression" on Tuesday and concluded with the statement: "We may lose our fatherland, but the Yankees have definitely lost the right to speak for democracy."

Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, a leading member of Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), is reported to have said on Wednesday night that the rebels "will have to give in" on some of their earlier demands. Pena Gomez, who has been the most prominent PRD spokesman in the rebel leadership, added that the rebels had thus far been uncompromising in their statements to the OAS committee because "any expression of willingness to negotiate would have made the Americans want to get a great deal more."

Yesterday morning, the rebel radio, amid its customary declarations of the rebel intention to fight to the end against the "aggression," carried a statement that the rebel government is nevertheless willing to "swallow its tears" and proceed to negotiate.

In dramatic contrast to the heavy rebel military action initiated on Tuesday, yesterday there were only two reported instances of firing from rebel territory. In neither instance were inter-American forces obliged to return the fire. Early yesterday morning the rebel radio had been heard advising rebel fighters to hold their positions and maintain the ceasefire.

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[REDACTED]

US military personnel manning a checkpoint on the border of the rebel zone report that during a three and a half hour period yesterday when Dominicans were moving through the checkpoint, about 2,000 civilians had come out of rebel territory and about 1,200 had gone into the area. Many civilians were making repeat trips to remove personal belongings from the rebel area.

There were, however, some efforts by rebel authorities to prevent free access out of rebel territory yesterday. An official of the OAS Human Rights Commission who is now in Santo Domingo told US Embassy officers yesterday that he had observed Caamano forces denying people egress from the rebel zone. He described the Caamano action as "building a Berlin wall." Several newsmen reported similarly to the embassy, adding that they were the only people allowed in and out of the area freely.

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There has as yet been no reported response in the interior of the country this week to extremist calls for countrywide uprisings. Nevertheless, hard-line militants probably still hope for such action.

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Meanwhile, on the international scene, the rebel government is still calling for action by the United Nations. In two messages received at UN headquarters yesterday, the Caamano regime bitterly blasted the United States for "aggression" and formally reiterated its desire that the Dominican case should "pass entirely under the aegis of the United Nations." The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet this afternoon.

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