

SECRET

OCI No. 0941/66

87

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 February 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Dominican Republic Situation Report
(As of 5:00 PM, EST)

1. Santo Domingo remained tense but quiet during the night. There is a report of scattered violence in Santiago today. The lack of new developments probably reflects the on-set of the weekend, rather than any basic change in the situation. It is too early to judge whether the agitators will be sufficiently placated by Rivera Caminero's departure Friday evening to abandon the general strike or whether they will continue to press for the ouster of any or all of the service chiefs--one of the stated objectives of Juan Bosch and the strike committee. The Provisional President is to address the Dominican people by radio this evening, following his second meeting since Thursday with leaders of the student group involved in Wednesday's shooting incident in front of the National Palace. Yesterday, Garcia Godoy hinted that continuation of the general strike could delay government salaries because revenues are not being collected.

2. The Federal Aeronautics Administration advises us that at 1:00 PM EST Friday a notice limiting landings and takeoffs to the period 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST daily was posted on the terminal building at Caucedo Airport outside the capital. FAA further advises that Miami Air Traffic Control knows of no traffic into or out of the airport since yesterday morning.

3. By noon yesterday, the downtown area of Santo Domingo was at a standstill, with gangs of rock throwing young hoodlums roaming the streets--where police and Inter-American Peace Force patrols were out in force. Taxi drivers and others allegedly stayed at home out of fear of reprisal. In Santiago, where the walkout failed yesterday, anonymous

State Dept. review completed

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

phone callers are said to have threatened harm to people who refused to support the strike and there is a report that local government employees who showed up for work on Friday were sent home on instructions of the Ministry of Labor in Santo Domingo. Ministry officials reportedly arrived in Santiago to ensure compliance with the stay-at-home order.

4. It would appear that the newly appointed National Police Chief, Brigadier General Jose Morillo Lopez, is acceptable to the rebel faction.

25X1

5. Joaquin Balaguer and the Reformist Party (PR) choose not to take a public stand on the strike or the issue of the military chiefs. On 11 February, PR Vice President Quirilio Vilorio told a US Embassy officer that the present situation in the Dominican Republic results from Garcia Godoy's unwillingness or inability to exert his authority and that the Provisional President must share responsibility with Bosch and others. Balaguer, who believes that Bosch is bent on continuing the pressure on Garcia Godoy in order to disrupt the election, intends to remain aloof and withhold any direct statement on the strike. Vilorio said the PR is satisfied with Perez y Perez as Defense Secretary and finds the new National Police Chief "acceptable." He added that further changes in the military leadership should be unnecessary and would make the military "unhappy" even though they should have no great problem accepting them. Vilorio concluded by saying that the PR is washing its hands of the current situation and intends to keep campaigning in the hope that the election will be held as scheduled.

6. According to local press reports, the Social Christian Revolutionary Party (PRSC) held its national convention in Santo Domingo on 6 February and elected a 9-man executive committee to prepare

25X1

SECRET

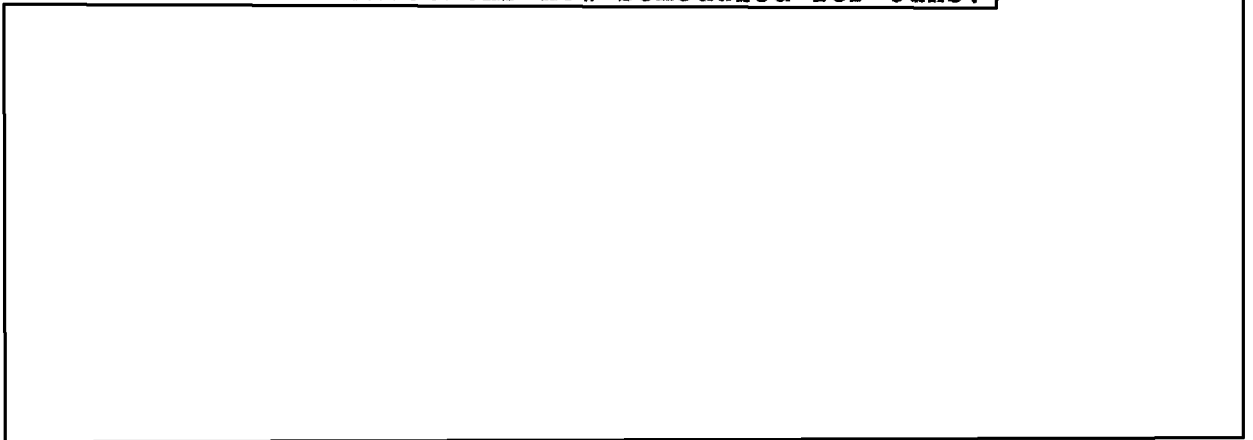
~~SECRET~~



25X1

25X1

for the national elections now scheduled for June.



7. LATE ITEM: The Dominican Radio has announced that President Garcia Godoy will not address the nation today.



~~SECRET~~

25X1