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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

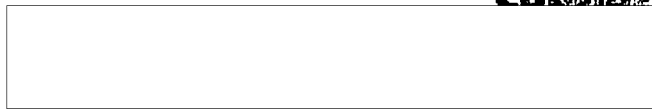


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Balaguer and other Trujillo associates retained control in the Dominican Republic immediately following the dictator's assassination on 30 May by a retired army general, Juan Tomas Diaz, who had been in close contact with a pro-US, middle-of-the-road dissident civilian group. An internal power struggle is likely. The capital was under tight security measures on 31 May, many dissidents were hiding out in the homes of friends, and a wave of panic food buying was developing; few reports were available on provincial areas.

General Diaz is reported to be in hiding in the interior as the police and units of the Dominican armed forces round up individuals believed to have been associated with him. He may be heading for the traditionally dissident Cibao region in the east-central part of the country.

Meanwhile, the late dictator's two sons have arrived in the Dominican Republic after a hastily arranged charter flight from Europe. The elder son, Rafael "Ramfis" Trujillo, Jr., is a general and a minister without portfolio and is believed, with his military associates, to have a core of fanatical support in the air force mobile infantry unit stationed near Ciudad Trujillo. This military unit, roughly equivalent to a US World War II regimental combat team, is likely to play an important part in any struggle for power. The two army brigades stationed in the capital city are commanded by relatives of the late dictator.

The clique around "Ramfis" includes the de facto head of the hated Military Intelligence Service, John Abbes, who has been involved since 1957 in Trujillo's subversive operations in other

Latin American countries. It also includes officials of Radio Caribe, whose pro-Castro and bitterly anti-US and anti-clerical diatribes over the past ten months have probably contributed to at least some degree of anti-US feeling among the Dominican people.

The longer an internal power struggle is protracted, the greater will be the opportunities offered to pro-Castro elements, both inside the country and in exile. During the past ten months pro-Castro groups within the country have been strengthened by the dictator's own political machinations. Last week [redacted] told the American Consulate that the officers involved in the plot hoped the US would have military strength available in the area in case a post-Trujillo government asks for assistance in controlling the internal situation.

Reaction in the rest of Latin America to Trujillo's death was generally one of grim satisfaction. Chilean Foreign Minister Ortuzar told newsmen that the assassination was "a natural end that awaits all dictators...who make a mockery of the rights and freedoms of man." In Haiti, on the same island with the Dominican Republic, the reaction was one of alarm as the government sent troops to the border and mobilized the President's special militia. In Cuba, comment in the Castro-controlled press stressed the hope that the dictator's death will mean the "true liberation" of the Dominican people, who now have "a magnificent opportunity to recover their freedom."

In Venezuela, where President Romulo Betancourt was the target of an almost-successful assassination attempt mounted by Trujillo last year, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously passed a resolution of solidarity with the people of the Dominican Republic. [redacted]

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