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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

185

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SECRET

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

ORIGIN: HAITI/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP OF GENERAL LEON CANTAVE, HAITIAN EXILE LEADER

DATE DISTR. 9 SEPTEMBER 1963

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO: 3 SEPTEMBER 1963

REFERENCES: IN 12992

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]
ACQ. [REDACTED]
DISSEM. [REDACTED]

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

APPRAISAL:

1. THE LOCATION AT WHICH THE FORCES OF GENERAL LEON CANTAVE, HAITIAN EXILE LEADER, ARE ENCAMPED IS FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF DAJANCO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ON THE ROAD TO CAPOTILLO. A SMALL HOUSE SERVES AS THE HEADQUARTERS. THE MEN SLEEP OUT AND TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN IN COVERED TRUCKS.

2. TWO HUNDRED AND TEN MEN NOW IN THE CAMP ARE UNDERGOING ARMS FAMILIARIZATION. ONE HUNDRED HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING, AND ANOTHER GROUP WILL BEGIN ON 4 SEPTEMBER.

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[REDACTED]

THE MEN ARE TAKING WELL TO THE TRAINING, AND MORALE IS HIGH IN SPITE OF DIFFICULT CONDITIONS AND SOME ILLNESS. THERE ARE A FEW MALARIA VICTIMS, BUT ONLY ONE HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED IN DAJABON.

3. THE OFFICER CORPS IS INTACT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACCORDING TO CANTAVE, THE FORCE AS NOW CONSTITUTED IS "GOOD." THE MEN LACK EXPERIENCE BUT ARE IMPROVING.

4. CANTAVE IS DETERMINED NOT TO MOVE FROM DAJABON UNTIL HE IS PROMISED SIMULTANEOUS AIR SUPPORT. HE HOLDS TO THE POSITION THAT ATTACK WITHOUT AIR SUPPORT IS SUICIDAL IN VIEW OF REINFORCEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF HAITI (FADE) IN THE AREA. HE SAID HE WILL NOT ENGAGE IN GUERRILLA WARFARE. ACCORDING TO CANTAVE, IF HE ATTACKED AND TOOK OUANAMETHE, HE COULD HOLD IT THROUGH ARRIVAL OF FADH REINFORCEMENTS FROM FT. LIBERTE BUT NOT AFTER ARRIVAL OF FADH FROM CAP HAITIEN. HE WOULD NEED AN AIR STRIKE AT THOSE POINTS ON THE SAME DAY, OR THE ATTACK WOULD FAIL. MEMBERS OF CANTAVE'S FORCE ARE AWARE THAT RE-ENTRY INTO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS BEEN FORBIDDEN BY GENERAL ELBY VICTOR VERAS ROMAN, DOMINICAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. CANTAVE SAID THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE FORCE

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WOULD OBEY AN ORDER TO ATTACK OUANAMINTIE, EVEN IF HE WERE WILLING TO GIVE IT, WITHOUT HIS PROMISE THAT AIR SUPPORT HAD BEEN ARRANGED.

5.

COMMENT: CANTAVE WAS IN

GOOD SPIRITS.

6. CANTAVE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING NOW TO GO IN WITH HIS FORCE IN THE SOUTH, WHERE THE FADM IS NOT SO STRONG, BUT VINAS ROMA PERSONALLY VETTED THE SUGGESTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT DOMINICAN COMMANDERS IN THE SOUTHERN ZONE ARE NOT LOYAL TO HIM.

7.

8. DISSEM: STATE, ARMY, CINCLANT, CDMCSO.

END OF MESSAGE