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OCI No. 1931/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
3 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report #259 - as of 4:30 pm EDT)

Political tension in the interior appears to be growing, resulting in new civil disturbances there.

The US Embassy in Santo Domingo reports that a group of undetermined size attacked police headquarters and an army barracks in the San Juan de la Maguana area in the southwestern part of the country last night. One rebel reportedly was killed in the attack. Police had been forewarned of the impending raid and made elaborate preparations--which evidently were successful--to fend it off.

Judging from the sketchy information thus far received on what actually happened at San Juan, the incident appears to have been similar to other raids on police posts in various areas of the country. Presumably a common objective of most of these attacks is the capture of arms and ammunition that would be useful in guerrilla warfare or terrorism at some later date. At any rate, these incidents underline the capability of the rebels in general and the Communists in particular to cause trouble in many Dominican towns--a capability that will grow so long as there is no resolution of the political deadlock in Santo Domingo.

A statement made yesterday by a rebel representative, Caonabo Javier, gives further indication that supporters of Juan Bosch were in contact with extremists prior to the April uprising. Javier said

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yesterday that support for Caamano derives from the "Pact of Rio Piedras" signed in January of this year between Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party, the extreme left wing of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party, and the pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ). Bosch's party is known to have been in contact with the APCJ but this is the first public indication of a formal link. The agreement--which Javier signed for the Social Christian party--called for a degree of coordination among the signatories. Javier, speaking in Caracas, said that the APCJ was a "nationalist movement" in which there has been Marxist influence, but he said that the group did not control the Caamano movement. Javier is Caamano's "special representative" who has been seeking support for the rebel cause in Chile and Venezuela.

The rebels appear convinced that dissension exists in the loyalist camp and are focusing on rumors that Imbert is about to be toppled by the Dominican military.

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[REDACTED] Press stories on the coup rumors are continuing to come in despite a denial yesterday by Imbert's press secretary that there was any basis for them.

Charges by each Dominican faction that the other is guilty of violating human rights agreements can be expected to receive heavy play in the immediate future. Caamano's claims of atrocities committed by Imbert's forces have provided the USSR with the pretext for requesting today's meeting of the UN Security Council on the Dominican situation. Manuel Bianchi, chairman of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, is now in Santo Domingo examining the atrocity charges, and further UN action along these lines presumably will be suggested by the USSR. The US Embassy in Santo Domingo comments

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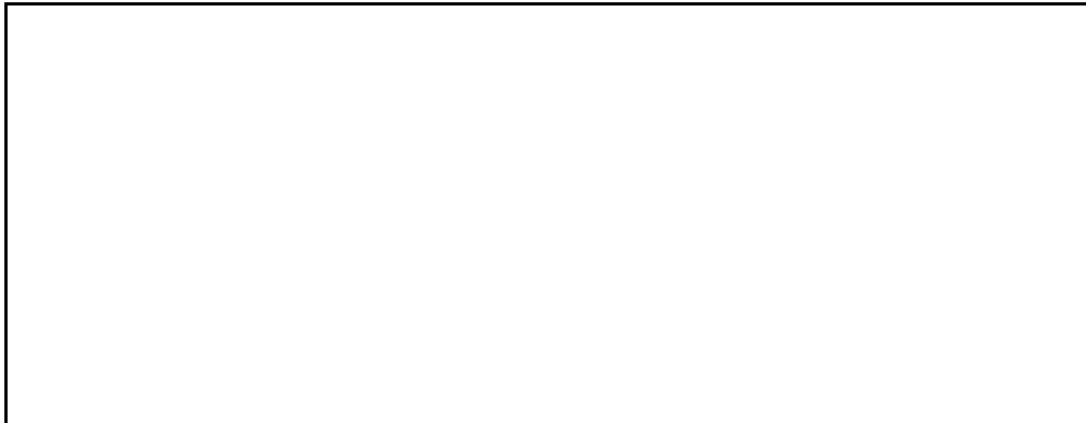
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that the advantage in this area would appear to lie with the rebels. Most of the atrocities they are accused of perpetrating occurred during the confused early days of the revolt, thus making proper documentation difficult. Also, the rebels are known to have taken hostages, and fear of this practice may make those Dominicans with relatives in the rebel-controlled area afraid to speak.

The downtown rebel-held zone, according to the Embassy, remains a well-armed camp with extremists very much in evidence and few non-combatants in sight. Food is in short supply and the central market is said to be empty. According to one Dominican family, free US-distributed foodstuffs comprise the chief supply and these are being hogged by rebel "troops."

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