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LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1960 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations I am sending you herewith, for the information of the Security Council, copies in English and Spanish of the "Report of the Inter-American Peace Committee on the Case Presented by the Government of Venezuela", which was transmitted to the Council of the Organization of American States on 8 June 1960.

I also enclose copies of the statement I made on that date regarding the Committee's current activities.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) John C. Dreier, Chairman
Inter-American Peace Committee

INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE



PAN AMERICAN UNION
Washington, D. C.

CIP-5--60 (English)
8 June 1960
Original: English

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
PEACE COMMITTEE, AMBASSADOR JOHN C. DREIER,
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AMERICAN STATES ON JUNE 8, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

On April 19 when the Inter-American Peace Committee presented to this Council two reports concerning matters that it had had under study, I took the occasion to inform the Council of certain other activities in which the Committee was then engaged. One of these matters concerned a request made by the Government of Venezuela on February 17 that the Committee investigate alleged flagrant violations of human rights in the Dominican Republic that were aggravating tensions in the Caribbean area. This matter is the subject of a report which the Inter-American Peace Committee is presenting to the Council today.

I should like to point out in this connection that this is the second report dealing with one of the subjects specifically assigned to the Committee by Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, namely, "The relationship between violations of human rights or the non-exercise of representative democracy, on the one hand, and the political tensions that affect the peace of the Hemisphere, on the other." The Committee first entered into a general consideration of this matter and on April 14 issued a special report on general aspects of the problem. The report presented today deals with one specific aspect of this problem which, in the opinion of the Committee, merits particular attention for reasons expressed in the report itself.

As indicated in the special report of April 14, the Committee considers that the subject set forth in paragraph 1 b) of Resolution IV, as cited above, is one of the most important factors bearing upon the existence of international tensions in the Caribbean area. The Committee will, therefore, continue to

study this problem and examine any other situations in which the Committee believes that the violation of human rights or the lack of representative democracy are contributing to political tensions that affect the peace of the Hemisphere.

The Committee will, of course, also continue to examine other aspects of the problem of international tensions in the Caribbean area with a view to complying fully with the assignment given it by Resolution IV of the Santiago Meeting of Consultation. The Committee will keep the Council informed of progress in all these studies.

C/641

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COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

PAN AMERICAN UNION



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Council Series

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C-d-844 (English)

8 June 1960

Original: Spanish

NOTE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
TRANSMITTING THE REPORT ON THE CASE PRESENTED TO THE
COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA

Transmitted to the
Council of the Organization of American States
at the meeting on
June 8, 1960

INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
COMISION INTERAMERICANA DE PAZ
COMISSÃO INTERAMERICANA DE PAZ
COMMISSION INTERAMERICAINE DE LA PAIX



PAN AMERICAN UNION

Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A.

Cable address: PAU WASH DC

6 June 1960

Note No. 98

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to address Your Excellency in order to transmit, pursuant to Article 22 of the Statutes of the Inter-American Peace Committee, the attached "Report of the Inter-American Peace Committee on the Case Presented by the Government of Venezuela."

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

John C. Dreier, Chairman
Inter-American Peace Committee

His Excellency
Vicente Sánchez Gavito
Chairman, Council of the Organization
of American States
Washington, D.C.

INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE



PAN AMERICAN UNION
Washington, D. C.

CIP-4-60 (English)
7 June 1960
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Report of the Inter-American Peace Committee on the
Case presented by the Government of Venezuela

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REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE ON THE
CASE PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA

The Government of Venezuela, in a note of February 17, 1960, signed by its Representative on the Council of the Organization of American States, requested the Inter-American Peace Committee to investigate "the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic, which are aggravating tensions in the Caribbean" (Appendix A).

The Committee decided, first, that in view of the powers and functions which were given it in Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, it was within its competence to consider the request of the Government of Venezuela. As will be recalled, that Resolution, in entrusting to the Committee the study of the questions that were the subject of the convocation of the Meeting of Consultation, provides in Article 1, paragraph (b), that the Inter-American Peace Committee shall examine:

"The relationship between violations of human rights or the non-exercise of representative democracy, on the one hand, and the political tensions that affect the peace of the hemisphere, on the other;..."

In this determination regarding its competence the Representative of Venezuela, who had withdrawn from active participation as a Committee member at the time when he presented his Government's request, did not take part. Colombia was designated as a substitute by the Council of the Organization, on March 1, 1960, in accordance with Article 11 of the Statutes of the Committee.

In order to gather as much reliable information as possible with respect to this case, the Committee requested information from the Member states in a circular note of February 25, 1960 (Appendix B), sent to all the Representatives on the Council except those of the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, with whom the Committee has remained in contact.

The Committee considered that it would be desirable to visit the Dominican Republic in order to investigate on the scene the situation existing in that country. For that purpose the Committee decided to exchange points of view with the Representative of the Dominican Republic on the Council. The corresponding invitation was extended by means of a note dated February 19, 1960 (Appendix C), with which the Dominican Representative received a copy of the note from the Representative of Venezuela. The resultant conversations were initiated on February 24, 1960.

In the course of these conversations with the Dominican Representative, the Committee requested and obtained from him information regarding the case under study and, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, asked him if his Government would be prepared to give its consent for the Committee to visit the Dominican Republic in order to carry out the investigations that it considered necessary.

During the session held on March 8, 1960, the Representative of the Dominican Republic stated that his Government, in the exercise of its option provided for in Article 2 of the above-mentioned Resolution IV, did not give its consent for the Committee to visit the Dominican Republic. The reasons

given by the Representative of the Dominican Republic, on informing the Committee of the decision of his Government, were reiterated in a note which he sent to the Chairman of the Committee on March 24, 1960 (Appendix D).

In view of the interest which existed regarding its actions in this case, the Committee decided to issue a press release on March 13, 1960 (Appendix E) making public the negative reply of the Dominican Government.

In its conversations held with the Representative of the Dominican Republic, the Committee expressed its natural and particular interest in obtaining information regarding the arrests in his country of persons involved in the subversive movement put down by the Dominican authorities in January 1960. The Committee had received reports on this matter to the effect that there had been more than a thousand such arrests. In this regard, the Representative of the Dominican Republic said that, in accordance with official reports of his Government, the number of persons who had recently been arrested in his country for activities directed against the security of the state amounted to 222; he referred to the acts of clemency of the Dominican Government in favor of these persons, such as the release of the women who had participated in the movement and the reduction of some of the sentences imposed by the lower courts; he gave the Committee a memorandum containing a chronological account of the cases of amnesty and pardon of persons condemned in the course of the last 25 years for acts against the security of the Dominican State (Appendix F); and he suggested the desirability of the Committee's studying the question of violations of human rights in the Caribbean region in its general aspects and not in relation to only one

of the countries comprising that region.

In view of these statements of the Dominican Representative and taking into account various reports and documents which by then had been received by the Committee - for example, the second Pastoral Letter of the Dominican Bishops, dated February 28, 1960 (Appendix G) - the Committee believed that there was reason to hope that the Dominican Government would decree an amnesty for the political prisoners or would adopt some other measure of clemency in their favor, on the occasion of Easter, April 17, 1960. Desirous of avoiding any step which might adversely affect the fate of the political prisoners, the Committee deemed it desirable not to make any pronouncements on the case under study during the first days of April and decided in favor of issuing a report of a general nature, dated April 14, entitled "Special Report on the Relationship Between Violations of Human Rights or the Non-Exercise of Representative Democracy and the Political Tensions that Affect the Peace of the Hemisphere." in which, among other matters, questions related to the existence of political prisoners in the American republics are considered.

The Committee's hopes regarding an amnesty turned out to be unfounded. In fact, it was not until May 31 that the Committee received a note from the Dominican Representative, dated May 30, in which the Committee was informed that "within the Dominican Government's process of carrying out acts of clemency in behalf of persons involved in the subversive plots discovered at the beginning of the year, another group of 63 of the persons sentenced was set free on Saturday, May 28, 1960..." (Appendix H).

Despite the Dominican Government's having declined to give its consent for the Committee to visit its territory, the Committee decided to obtain, through means available to it, reliable information regarding the subject of the request presented by the Venezuelan Representative.

The Committee received testimony from Dominican exiles who had recently left that country, as well as from nationals of other American countries who had been in the Dominican Republic during, or just after, the events which gave rise to the arrests that occurred beginning in the month of January 1960. Among the Dominican exiles interviewed by the Committee were representatives of different social and economic spheres of the country, such as educators, workers, former members of the armed forces, industrialists and businessmen. These interviews were held in closed sessions and the Committee does not consider it desirable to make public the names of the witnesses or the text of their statements.

In addition to the testimony of actual witnesses of the situation existing in the Dominican Republic, the Committee examined extensive and reliable press material and also made use of valuable information provided it by certain Representatives of member states.

On the basis of the evidence which it has been able to gather, the Committee has reached the conclusion that international tensions in the Caribbean region have been aggravated by flagrant and widespread violations of human rights which have been committed and continue to be committed in the Dominican Republic. Among these violations, mention must be made of the denial of free assembly and of free speech, arbitrary arrests, cruel and inhuman treatment of political prisoners, and the use of intimidation.

and terror as political weapons. Some of the victims of these grave acts appeared before the Committee and made statements. These acts constitute the denial of fundamental rights set forth in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, as well as of principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States.

The relationship between the systematic violation of human rights and international political tensions that affect the peace of the Hemisphere was analyzed by the Committee in its above-mentioned Special Report of April 14, 1960 (Doc. CIP-2-60). The case which is the subject of the present report confirms, in the judgement of the Committee, the conclusions which it reached as a result of the above-mentioned analysis since it is evident that the violations of human rights in the Dominican Republic, just alluded to, have increased the tensions existing in the Caribbean region.

In the above-mentioned Special Report some observations were also made regarding the problems confronting the governments which give territorial asylum to the citizens of the countries governed by dictatorial regimes that do not respect the fundamental rights of the human individual. Those observations are particularly applicable to the situation created by the presence, at the current time, of many Dominican exiles in the countries of the Caribbean region, by the circumstance that in recent months there has been an increase in the number of Dominican nationals seeking refuge in foreign countries, and by the appreciable intensification of the activities of the exiles directed towards effecting a change in the government of their native country. Likewise, it should be mentioned that these groups of Dominicans, as well as numerous persons and organizations of different nationalities,

are requesting, through the press and in public demonstrations, the adoption of international measures against the present Government of the Dominican Republic. This situation is the cause of serious concern, and has created difficult problems, for the governments of the countries receiving the refugees, where public opinion has for some time been aroused over the state of affairs in the Dominican Republic.

Regarding the foregoing, the Committee must also refer to the repercussions resulting from the circumstance that public opinion has linked certain violent acts which have occurred in different American countries with illegal activities of agents of the Dominican Government abroad. The Committee has received and continues to receive reports concerning these cases, but, independently of any conclusions which it may reach on the matter, it considers it to be its duty to point out that existing tensions in the Caribbean have been heightened in an exceptional manner by this public reaction.

The Dominican Government has reacted very adversely to these developments. Among the manifestations of the foregoing are the attacks in the press, by radio and other means of propaganda of the Dominican Republic against those governments and Chiefs of State who have shown sympathy for the cause of the Dominican exiles. As this subject exceeds the limited scope of the present Report, the Committee will not analyze it at present. It must, however, express its opinion that this course of action, in turn, constitutes an additional element of disturbance in international relations in the Hemisphere.

In view of all that which has been stated above, the Committee stresses the fact that international tensions in the Caribbean area, far from diminishing, have been increased and that, in its view, these tensions will continue to increase so long as the flagrant violations of human rights in the Dominican Republic persist.

6 June 1960

John C. Dreier
Ambassador, Representative of the
United States
Chairman of the Committee

Hector David Castro
Ambassador, Representative of El Salvador

Vicente Sanchez Gavito
Ambassador, Representative of Mexico

Carlos A. Clulow
Ambassador, Representative of Uruguay

Santiago Salazar Santos
Minister, Representative of Colombia

NOTE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF VENEZUELA TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

February 17, 1960

OAS 135

Mr. Chairman:

In compliance with instructions from my Government, I have the honor to address Your Excellency for the purpose of requesting that the Inter-American Peace Committee investigate the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic, which are aggravating the tensions in the Caribbean. Such investigations would be directed toward the later adoption by the Committee of the measures that it considers appropriate to eliminate the cause of that aggravation.

I enclose herewith a copy of the note that I addressed to the Chairman of the Council of the Organization of American States with respect to this matter, and also a copy of the Resolution approved by the above-mentioned body at the special meeting that it held on February 15, 1960, in which it is pointed out that the Committee is an appropriate organ to give consideration to the said matter.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

MARCOS FALCON BRIGENO
Ambassador, Representative of Venezuela

The Honorable
John C. Dreier
Chairman, Inter-American
Peace Committee
Washington, D.C.

APPENDIX A-1

NOTE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF VENEZUELA TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

February 6, 1960

Mr. Chairman:

In compliance with instructions from my Government, I have the honor to address you to request that you convoke, on an urgent basis, a special meeting of the Council of the Organization of American States, for the purpose of bringing to the attention of that body the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic, with disregard for the high aims of the Organization and aggravating thereby the tension in the Caribbean.

The Delegation of Venezuela proposes to request that the Council, directly or through the organ or the committee that it considers appropriate, investigate the situation prevailing in the Dominican Republic, in order that the Organization may adopt the measures necessary to prevent aggravation of those tensions.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Marcos Falcón Briceño
Ambassador, Representative of
Venezuela

His Excellency Vicente Sánchez Gavito
Chairman, Council of the Organization
of American States
Washington, D.C.

RESOLUTION ON THE MATTER PRESENTED BY THE
DELEGATION OF VENEZUELA ON JANUARY 8, 1960

(Approved by the Council of the Organization
at the meeting held on February 15, 1960)

WHEREAS:

The Delegation of Venezuela, at the meeting held on February 8, 1960, charged that there had been "flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic" and requested "that the Council or the organ or the committee of the inter-American system considered appropriate, investigate the situation prevailing in the Dominican Republic, in order that the Organization might adopt the measures necessary to prevent aggravation of tensions in the Caribbean";

The Council of the Organization, without expressing an opinion on the internal situation in any member state, reaffirms that respect for the fundamental rights of the individual is one of the principles of the Organization of American States; and

Pursuant to Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Inter-American Peace Committee is empowered, until the close of the Eleventh Inter-American Conference, to take cognizance of, among other matters, the relationship between violations of human rights and the political tensions that affect the peace of the Hemisphere,

THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

RESOLVES:

To state that the Inter-American Peace Committee is an appropriate organ to consider the matter raised by the Delegation of Venezuela.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
TO THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COUNCIL OF THE OAS

February 25, 1960

No. 47

Excellency:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that on February 17, 1960, the Representative of Venezuela on the Council of the Organization of American States requested the Inter-American Peace Committee to investigate "the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic, which are aggravating the tensions in the Caribbean." According to the same note "such investigation would be directed toward the later adoption by the Committee of the measures that it considers appropriate to eliminate the cause of that aggravation."

As Your Excellency is aware, the Representative of Venezuela presented this matter to the Council of the Organization of American States on February 8, 1960. During its meeting on February 15, 1960, the Council approved a resolution indicating that the Inter-American Peace Committee is an appropriate organ to consider the matter.

The Committee has begun its consideration of the request presented by the Representative of Venezuela in order to determine, in accordance with the powers that have been assigned to it, the way in which its work might contribute to lessening international tensions in the Caribbean.

For that purpose, the Inter-American Peace Committee would appreciate receiving from the Government of Your Excellency the information or points of view that it may wish to present regarding the situation referred to in the request presented by the Representative of Venezuela, and, in particular, regarding the possible relationship between that situation and international tensions in the Caribbean area.

I avail myself of this opportunity to greet Your Excellency with my highest and most distinguished consideration.

John C. Dreier, Chairman
Inter-American Peace Committee

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE
TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

February 19, 1960

Note No. 45

Excellency:

As Chairman of the Inter-American Peace Committee, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency of the attached note, of February 17, 1960, which the Representative of Venezuela presented on that date to the Inter-American Peace Committee.

With respect to this note, the Inter-American Peace Committee has decided to extend an invitation to Your Excellency to attend the meeting that will be held on February 24, 1960, at 10:30 a.m., in the office of the Chairman of the Council of the Organization of American States, to consider the matter that is the subject of the note.

I avail myself of the opportunity to greet Your Excellency with my highest and most distinguished consideration.

John C. Dreier, Chairman
Inter-American Peace Committee

His Excellency
Virgilio Díaz Ordóñez
Ambassador, Representative of the
Dominican Republic
Washington, D.C.

NOTE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

March 24, 1960

No. 354

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to inform the Inter-American Peace Committee, through Your Excellency, of the text of the following communication issued by the Dominican Government on March 19, 1960:

"In October 1959, the Dominican Government, in deference to the Inter-American Peace Committee, permitted a Subcommittee of the Committee to visit the country, where it had the opportunity to carry out fully and independently the activities that it considered appropriate. However, the Dominican Government to date has no knowledge of the Inter-American Peace Committee's having investigated other governments seriously involved in the situation in the Caribbean, governments that are keeping thousands of political prisoners in their respective jails in conditions that constitute flagrant violations of human rights. The Dominican Government also believes that in a matter that has to do with the exercise by the state of its sovereign powers with respect to the maintenance of internal security, the introduction of a procedure of international investigation is a most serious intervention in the domain reserved to it and an infringement of Article 3 of the Dominican Constitution and of Article 15 of the Charter of the Organization of American states, which expressly and definitely prohibit any state or group of states from intervening, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state.

"Bearing in mind this double objection, internal and international, as well as the situation of inferiority in which it would be placed if an investigation were to be made in its territory that has not been made in that of other states, the Dominican Government, in compliance with Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Ministers, which serves as a basis for the request made of it by the Inter-American Peace Committee, and exercising freely

The Honorable John C. Dreier
Ambassador Representative of the
United States of America,
Chairman, Inter-American Peace Committee,
Pan American Union,
Washington, D.C.

the sovereign right of option granted it in paragraph 2 of the said Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Santiago, Chile, has not given its consent to the Inter-American Peace Committee's making a second investigation in the territory of the Dominican Republic on the basis of the request to which the present note refers."

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

V. Díaz Ordóñez

PRESS RELEASE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

March 18, 1960

Washington, D.C. (PAU) --- In connection with the request of the Government of Venezuela "that the Inter-American Peace Committee investigate the flagrant violations of human rights by the Government of the Dominican Republic, which are aggravating tensions in the Caribbean," and in accordance with Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Ministers, the Committee inquired of the Government of the Dominican Republic through its Representative in Washington whether it would consent to the Committee's visiting the territory of the Dominican Republic for the purpose of such an investigation.

The Committee has been informed that the Government of the Dominican Republic, availing itself of the option given to it in paragraph 2 of Resolution IV, has decided not to give its consent.

In view of this decision, the Committee is considering the steps it should take with respect to the Venezuelan request in the light of the responsibilities placed upon it by Resolution IV of the Fifth Meeting of Foreign Ministers and other pertinent documents.

PARAGRAPH 2 OF RESOLUTION IV.

"The Committee may take action, in the performance of its duties, in regard to the subject matter referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution at the request of governments or on its own initiative, although in either case its activity is subject to the express consent of the states in the case of investigations that would have to be made in their respective territories."

APPENDIX F

MEMORANDUM FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

March 10, 1960

INFORMATION FOR THE
INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

The Dominican Government has, through the years, applied the broadest and most generous policy of pardon and clemency with respect to those who banded together for the purpose of subverting public order and even making attempts against the life of the Chief of State. As has just happened, the Dominican Government pardoned the prisoners taken in the subversive expedition which went out from Cuba against the Dominican Republic in June of last year, landed by air in Constanza and by sea in Maimón and Estero Hondo, and came arms in hand and destroyed human lives and property. As has also just happened the Dominican Government has pardoned and put at liberty a group of those who recently, in January of this year, conspired against the public order, 14 men and the three or four women who participated in that recent plot having been set free. This is owing, we repeat, to the continuous practice of clemency by the Dominican Government toward those guilty of crimes against the security of the state, and not to the intervention of the Dominican clergy, since pardon and amnesty are acts of the sovereign power of the state. Interference by any foreign power in the exercise of this is inadmissible, and it is a power that the law reserves exclusively to governments.

It should always be borne in mind that the Venezuelan regime, in order to dramatize its request and give it a note of strength, which it lacks, has taken advantage of the pastoral letter of the bishops to distort the measures taken by the Dominican Government to deal with events that might happen in any country, as, in effect, has occurred in Venezuela, when attempts against the security of the state are made. In this instance, the Dominican Government has done no more than apply the laws of our Penal Code, which have their origin in French law, to prosecute those guilty of crimes against the security of the state. Consequently, the pastoral letter of the bishops should be given only limited significance, since what is important is the magnitude of the subversive plot uncovered and the traditional policy of clemency of the Dominican Government, shown in this instance also.

Likewise, an analysis of these measures from the humanitarian point of view, insofar as that sentiment can be shared by other lay or religious institutions, makes it plain that neither the Dominican Government nor those in authority need to receive advice on clemency, since, as the documents cited below show, it has been such considerations that have inspired the Dominican

Government -- ever convinced of the importance of its work to raise the social, economic, and cultural levels of the people -- once more to decide, in the case of the conspirators of January of this year, to make clear the humanitarian sentiments that have always motivated the political conduct of the Dominican authorities.

The following is an enumeration of the causes which gave rise to the granting of pardons, and of documents that can be made available to the Committee.

a) Ciudad Trujillo plot of 1935, to change the government, inciting the citizens to arms against the legally constituted authority and to provoke civil war. (Articles 87, 88, 89, 90, and 91 of the Penal Code).

Decree No. 1349, dated August 16, 1935, whereby pardon is granted to the following persons: Ramón Contreras, Francisco Augusto Lora González, Julio Minicucci, and Fernando Bermúdez.

Pamphlet No. 41 of the Collection of Laws of 1935, on pages 685, 688, and 757 of which the decrees cited appear.

b) Santiago Plot. Decree No. 1350, dated August 16, 1935, whereby pardon is granted to the following persons: Juan Isidro Rodríguez Jiménez (a) Miguigo, Mario Sánchez Plácido, Arturo Piña, Eduardo Grullón, Leopoldo Franco Bidó, Polín Martínez Reina, and Juan Ulises García.

Decree No. 1425-A, dated October 30, 1935, whereby pardon is granted to the following persons: Ramón Vela Piola, Juan Isidro Jiménez Grullón, Jesús María Patiño, Hostos Guaroa Félix Pepín, Rafael Antonio Veras, Rigoberto Cerda, Juan Rafael López, Federico Guillermo Liz, Carlos Cantizano, José Sixto Liz, Sergio Manuel Ildefonso, Fulvio Liz Cruz, Rafael Octavio Moscoso, Leonardo García Beltrán, Ramón Valverde Martínez, José Najul, Ramón Emilio Michel, Félix María Ceballos, Agustín Castro Pepín, José Remigio Pérez, Ramón A. Castro, Manuel Borbón, Ildefonso Colón, Andrés García, Tomás Ceballos Martínez y Eyobín Cruz.

Amnesty Law No. 2278, dated February 23, 1950 (Gaceta Oficial No. 7085, of February 25, 1950, page 6).

Law No. 2523, dated September 27, 1950, which prorogues the aforesaid Amnesty Law No. 2278 (Gaceta Oficial No. 7187, of October 4, 1950, page 11).

c) Cayo Confites Conspiracy. The background of this matter was made known to the OAS when the Investigating Committee of the Organ of Consultation acted in this case in 1949.

On page 28 of the pamphlet "Trujillo Perdona" (Trujillo Pardons) appears a pardon decree of the President of the Republic on behalf of the participants in that subversive expedition.

Decree No. 8257, which grants pardon, effective August 16, 1952, to various persons condemned for the Cayo Confites plot. Those benefiting from this decree are: Rafael Berrido, Domingo Chicón, Fernando Rivera, Sergio del Toro, Román Rodríguez, Federico Carrera, Adolfo Camarena (later Consul of the Dominican Government in Los Angeles), José Oscar Canales, Víctor Gómez, Marino Fernández, Manuel Paulino, Francisco Antonio Mastruzzi Svelti, Rhadamés Cordero and José A. León.

d) Luperón Case. The particulars of this subversive invasion, organized in Guatemala, are also known to the OAS, which took action thereon. In the official communication No. 1354, dated February 25, 1950, of the Attorney General of the Republic, he informs the President of the Republic that on that date the order had been issued to set at liberty the prisoners Horacio Julio Ornes Coiscou, José Rolando Martínez Boniche, Tulio H. Arvelo, Miguel Feliú Arzeno, and José Córdoba Boniche, sentenced for crimes and misdemeanors against the security of the state.

e) Case of the "Quetzal" This case appears in the annals of the Peace Committee activities. In the Gaceta Oficial No. 7371 appears Decree No. 7918, which grants pardon to Tomás Ernesto Alamilla, Miguel Ismael Pineda Guerra, and Guadalupe Herrera Contreras, Guatemalan members of the crew of the "Quetzal," and in this issue of the Gaceta Decree No. 7918 is also given, which grants pardon to various Cuban citizens who were members of the crew of the "Quetzal."

f) "La Nación" of August 26, 1949, and two copies dated December 24 and 26, 1951, which carry on the first page the following headlines: "The 5 sentenced in the Luperón incident request pardon from President Trujillo." "President Trujillo pardons the Guatemalan members of the crew of the 'Quetzal'" "President Trujillo pardons Cuban crew members of the vessel 'Quetzal'."

g) Copies of "El Caribe" dated December 24 and 26, 1951, with the following headlines: "President Trujillo pardons Guatemalans sentenced for activity against the Republic." "President Trujillo pardons Cuban sailors sentenced for activity against the Republic."

h) Genesis and evolution of the "June 14 Cellular Conspiratorial Movement" discovered by the SIM (Military Intelligence Service) in 1960. In this document are described all the phases of the recent conspiratorial plot discovered by the Dominican Military Intelligence Service in January of this year, and the participation of the principal ringleaders of this plot.

APPENDIX G

COLLECTIVE PASTORAL LETTER OF THE EPISCOPATE
OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

To the Venerable Clergy and to
all the faithful.

Venerable Brothers and beloved children in Christ:

Lent is the acceptable time of spiritual health, during which our beloved mother, the Church, invites all her sons to repent, to express sorrow for their trespasses, and to make proper reparation and expiation.

It is likewise under these circumstances that we address you, beloved brothers and children, confident that our voice as pastors will reach your ears and penetrate to the depth of your hearts, just as the word of the Divine Master reached the ears and the hearts of the Apostles and the disciples to strengthen faith, hope, and charity, above all, at the moment of probation.

We address ourselves to all, but especially to the weak, the humble, the afflicted, and the sick, inasmuch as they are called in a special way to bear witness to the truth through the stigmas of suffering, tribulation, and sorrow.

With the strong voice of a herald of eternity, the Liturgy for this period cries out: "Let us amend and do better for those things in which we have sinned through ignorance lest, suddenly presented by the day of death, we seek time for penance and be not able to find it" (Blessing of the Ashes).

To carry out, within ourselves, this solemn invitation of the Holy Spirit and to respond to the call of the Church, there is nothing better than for us to examine together our lives, and to see what are the points that we should especially consider in order to carry out the precept of the New Testament, to convert, and change our thinking, to divest ourselves of the superficial, perishable, and fatal criteria, that arise from the flesh, concupiscence, and the Prince of Darkness, and to clothe ourselves in the criteria of God, our supreme and definitive reality. Thus, we shall purify our souls and live with integrity, dignity, and honor the vigorous and never-fading ideology of eternal life brought to the world by the Son of God, and be worthy of our Father in heaven.

Above all, there is no ideal as great and transcendental for us as that of charity in its aspect of fraternal love, since we are sons of a common Father who is in heaven. As the Apostle St. John said: "If any man say, 'I love God,' and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother, whom he seeth, how can he love God whom he seeth not? And this commandment we have from God; that he, who loveth God, love also his brother." (I John 4.20-21) All of us have the same fundamental rights, the same duties fall on all, we

are all treading the same path toward the same end. We are all of the same nature, placed in us by God, in which the dignity of the human being, the image and likeness of God, speaks more loudly than all titles of nobility and all drives of human convention.

A marvelous example of universal charity comes to us from God "who maketh his sun to rise upon the good, and bad, and raineth upon the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5.45).

On this earth, which is truly a vale of tears, a stopping place, and a difficult testing ground, we have abundant opportunity to exercise that charity following the example of our Father in heaven, because we are all living together in a mixture of the righteous and the sinners, the wheat and the cockle.

In his high economy, God does not usually wreak violent punishment upon sinners for their transgressions. He allows them to live, because while there is life there is hope of salvation and, above all, because the conduct of sinners serves to keep awake the faith of the righteous, so that patience may be exercised and charity abound.

a. To keep the Faith awakened: There is none so saintly that he does not have, at least one small sin to expiate on this earth. It is, therefore, truly a blessing of God to be troubled and to suffer in this world so as to be worthy of the pleasures of heaven for, as St. Paul rightly exclaimed: "the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come, that shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8.18). It was for that reason that St. Augustine prayed one day in a way very alien to human feeling: "Here and now, Lord, but cut, do not pardon me, so that I may attain to pardon for all eternity."

The contrary is true of the sinner. The temptation of many Christians to deny the loving Providence of God, because so many sinners live and triumph on earth, has no real reason for being, because the fortune of the sinner, compared with eternity, is like "the grass of the field, which is today and tomorrow is cast into the oven" (Matthew 6.30) and that prosperity will irremediably be terminated on the day that strict, specific, and full justice is meted out.

In reality, there is no sinner who does not possess some small virtue and who does not do some good works that God cannot fail to reward. But if the mystery of the iniquity of sinners exceeds that same mercy, then God, who is Infinite Justice, will repay in this life for the good they have done those who have made themselves unworthy of an eternal reward, and will leave for eternity only the unlimited punishment of the city of sorrows.

b. To exercise patience: Everyone is aware that the coexistence of the righteous with sinners is, too, for the former a purifying exercise of patience because there is nothing that makes an upright soul suffer as much as to see the grace of God scorned; and there is no more painful martyrdom than that

inflicted by those who, to their own misfortune, mock Religion and Faith, in a word, the very work of Christ. It is a martyrdom that needs no less valor and no less patience than that demanded by the other mortifications of life; but it helps us all, beloved brothers and sons, to mount with more merit, by being then more like Christ, the slopes of our painful Calvary.

c. To make the charity of the good abound: You must console yourselves with the strength of Christ, of whom you are members, for in the face of all the evils and insults that the Christian suffers, the only vengeance worthy of a follower of Christ and in keeping with the commandment of love is the constant supplication to the Lord for the conversion of those who have lost the way that is Christ. No Christian who suffers in secret and undergoes this painful martyrdom of tribulation, ever forgets the divine example of pardon. To pardon is charity. To pardon is love. To pardon is generosity.

In the light of the teachings of this holy period of Lent we invite you also to be always prepared for the last moment of life, "lest, suddenly presented by the day of death, we seek time for penance and be not able to find it" (Blessing of the Ashes). It is Jesus himself, the good Teacher and solicitous Shepherd, who admonishes us, describing the coming of death "as a thief in the night," which can surprise us at any moment. And if we find ourselves in the love of the Lord, why fear death, if death is, then, the beginning of our true life? Let us not forget that we have been created, not for time, but for eternity.

We must, therefore, await death with the spirit with which the Church prays in the Preface of the Requiem Mass: "For unto thy faithful, O Lord, life is changed, not taken away, and the abode of this earthly sojourn being dissolved, an eternal dwelling is prepared in heaven."

The imposition of ashes, with which we begin the Lenten season, reminds us of the ancient ceremony during which the Bishop drove from the temple the public sinners, who had to do penance at the entrance to the churches in the Lenten season. Receive those ashes on your foreheads and carry in your hearts the spirit that this rite inculcated: a life of austerity, piety, and mortification.

Four things were practiced likewise in ancient times, during this Lenten season: (a) almsgiving; (b) fasting, with privation of and abstinence from certain foods; (c) public penance; (d) and, as immediate preparation for the Easter season, expiation and a more intense life of self-effacement and prayer.

Therefore, adopting the motto of St. Paul, "godliness is profitable to all things" (I Timothy 4.8), we exhort you earnestly to persevere during the time of Lent in a fervent crusade of prayer and penitence "for the continual prayer of a just man availeth much" (St. James 5.16).

As consolation for troubled and sorrowing mankind, the loving Providence of God in his inscrutable designs for the great human family, healthily concerned over the search for a lost good, opens a luminous corner of heaven, shining with

innocence, with hope for a happy life, with holy aspirations: the Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother of all mankind. In her we repose, with unlimited and indescribable confidence, our desires, our hopes, and our prayers.

A reason for new hope for us all is the message of benediction and paternal love that in these same days the Holy Father, giving us one more proof of his loving solicitude for us, has addressed to the Dominican people. This august message is comforting balm for all. Even more, the Holy Pontiff, aware of your piety and your devotion to Mary, has deigned to associate himself therewith, offering a symbolic votive candle that will burn at the feet of Our Lady of La Altagracia in her Sanctuary in Higüey, thus bringing together before the miraculous image the prayers of this people with his and those of the Universal Church.

With words of keen gratitude to the Vicar of Christ, we transmit to you his Apostolic Blessing as pledge of special heavenly graces.

In concluding our Pastoral Letter we trust that word that the highest Authority of the Country has been willing to accept Our recommendation, will be reason for hope for all, assuring us that the prayers that were addressed to him in behalf of the political prisoners will be considered with particular attention and solicitude in a framework of understanding and clemency.

With the assurance that, in the Holy time of Lent Our common desires and efforts for peace and concord will be crowned by the success we desire, we ask God Our Lord that you will all be able to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Christ in an atmosphere of complete serenity and spiritual enjoyment.

To this end, as pledge of Our Pastoral solicitude, we beseech for you, especially for those who are particularly dear to you, for those who are ill, and for the common intentions of our beloved diocesans, the most widespread Divine Blessing.

In Ciudad Trujillo, D.N., February 28, 1960, Quinquagesima Sunday.

Ricardo Pittini, Metropolitan Archbishop
Santo Domingo;
Octavio Antonio Beras, Titular Archbishop
of Eucaita, Coadjutor, with Right of
Succession to the Archbishopric of
Santo Domingo, Apostolic Administrator
Sede Plena;
Hugo E. Polanco B., Bishop of Santiago de
los Caballeros;
Francisco Panal, Bishop of La Vega Real;
Juan F. Pepén, Bishop of La Altagracia;
Tomás F. Reilly, Titular Bishop of Temiso
Prelate Nullius of San Juan de la
Maguana.

NOTE: This Pastoral Letter will be read in all the churches the Sunday after it has been received.

APPENDIX H

NOTE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PEACE COMMITTEE

May 30, 1960

No. 629

Mr. Chairman:

I have the honor to report to Your Excellency, for the information of the Inter-American Peace Committee, that within the Dominican Government's process of carrying out acts of clemency in behalf of persons involved in the subversive plots discovered at the beginning of this year, another group of 63 of the persons sentenced was set free on Saturday, May 28, 1960, at the recommendation of Generalísimo Dr. Rafael L. Trujillo Molina, Benefactor of the Fatherland and Father of the New Fatherland.

The occasion on which these persons were given their freedom -- another example confirming the Dominican Government's tradition of showing clemency in the matter of political offenses -- took place in the enclosure of the Penitenciaría Nacional de La Victoria, and the repeated shouts of acclaim that broke out among the 63 men who were pardoned on this occasion were further evidence of the generous and humanitarian spirit inherent in the initiative taken by Generalísimo Dr. Trujillo Molina. Moreover, this group of 63 men is only one more among the many that have been the object of this traditional clemency in recent times.

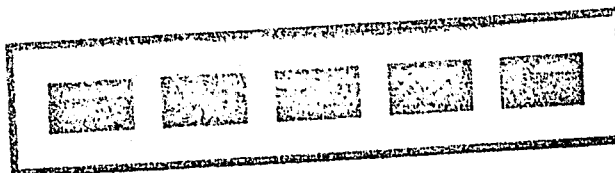
The names of the persons released on the afternoon of May 28 are: Francisco G. Benedicto Rodríguez, Salvador V. Jorge Pérez, Miguel M. Luna Estrella, Junior Alfonso Peña Guillén, Ramón del Carmen Saint Hilaire, R. Antonio Santelises Santelises, Félix Ant. Tavarez Vila, Fabio Aquiles Valdez Hernández, Lino Antonio Hernández Cruz, Antonio Marte Infante, Pedro Antonio Rodríguez Muñoz, Francisco A. Bello Franjul, Eligio Peralta Fernández, Jorge Ant. Polanco García, Cándido Rivas, Juan Gilberto Tejeda, Marino A. Tejada Vásquez, Leandro Ramón Acosta Lizardo, Angel Narc. Alonzo Escalante, Bolívar Augusto Almonte, Bienvenido Cabral Auden, Víctor Modesto Caminero, Ramón Antonio Castillo García, Manuel Castillo y Castillo, Luis Leonardo Cerda Woolton, Luis Emilio Contreras, Rafael Cordero Díaz, Gumersindo de la Cruz, Francisco Antonio Estévez Colón, Pedro Manuel Fernández Cestero, Ramón Alberto Ferreras, Alfonso José Fortuna Beliard, Manuel Augusto Furment Sánchez, Juan Ramón García Salas, José Osvaldo Gómez Suero, Hugo Rafael Gómez Suero, Silvestre Antonio Gómez Núñez, Ramón Ant. Gómez Hernández, Raymundo Salvador Guzmán, José Mercedes Herrera Piña, Plinio Spurina Jiménez Brea, Crispín López Balbuena, Santiago

The Honorable John C. Dreier,
Ambassador Representative of the
United States of America,
Chairman, Inter-American Peace Committee,
Washington, D.C.

Lora Alvarez, Rafael Ant. Linares Jiménez, Luis Ant. Martínez Cerón, Gilberto Marte Javier, Víctor Manuel Matos Méndez, Arturo Morales Larancuent, Juan Bta. Montilla Tejada, Alfredo Mota Santana, Víctor Manuel Nibbs Gil, José Altagracia Nolasco, Félix Peguero Rosario, Enrique Pecci Montás, Rafael René Rivera Robles, Boanerges Ripley Lamarche, Javier Rojas Pérez, Domingo Sánchez, Santiago R. Saldaña Santana, Luis Alb. Saldaña Tamariz, Luis Torres Guzmán, Julio Ventura, Fausto Rafael Yépez Pérez.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

V. Díaz Ordóñez



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