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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. My Representative in the Dominican Republic, Mr. José Antonio Mayobre, has submitted to me the following information on the situation in the Dominican Republic during the period from 19 June to 15 July 1965.

The situation in Santo Domingo

2. In general, the cease-fire in Santo Domingo was maintained during the period under review, although there were a number of isolated incidents.

3. One incident involving an exchange of fire took place near the junction of Monte Cristi and Abreu streets on the night of 28 June. A member of my Representative's staff visited the site of the incident on 30 June and found evidence of an explosion of a crude bomb or grenade on the Caamaño side about fifty metres from the position of the United States troops of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAFF) at the street intersection.

4. After an inspection of sensitive areas in the city by his staff on 30 June, my Representative reported that the situation was generally quiet, but that tension was noticeable in areas along the line separating the United States troops of the IAFF and the Caamaño forces, which, in some instances, faced each other at distances of only sixty metres. In this connexion, my Representative observed that some of the areas lying on and between the two front lines were still densely inhabited. If fighting were to be resumed, there could be little doubt in his mind that civilian casualties would be high, particularly where housing is of wood construction.

5. On the morning of 5 July, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker of the OAS Ad Hoc Committee informed my Representative that the Committee had arranged for a tanker to supply fuel to the Santo Domingo electric power plant. The tanker would enter the port and discharge the fuel from a berth on the east side of the Ozama River, an area under control of the IAFF. The Committee had informed the parties involved

of this arrangement and hoped to receive their co-operation. In this connexion, Colonel Caamaño advised my Representative on the same morning that he had asked that the ship's arrival be delayed until the requisite security measures had been taken. Later, Colonel Caamaño complained to my Representative that a Dominican frigate had entered the Ozama River with the tanker and that his forces had intercepted messages of the Dominican Navy ordering an alert. However, he agreed not to take any counter-action. My Representative immediately brought the incident to the attention of the OAS Ad Hoc Committee and the Imbert Group, while a member of his staff proceeded to the Ozama River to observe the situation. My Representative was informed by a collaborator of General Imbert that his government had not been notified of the arrival of the tanker and that once the latter had entered the Dominican territorial waters it had been taken under escort by the frigate. In this connexion, the OAS Ad Hoc Committee explained that the office of the Secretary of State of the "National Reconstruction Government" had been notified of the arrival of the tanker, but that it appeared that there had been a failure in co-ordination between that office and the Navy. At about 1230 hours local time, an OAS official informed my Representative, and the United Nations observer confirmed, that the frigate had withdrawn from the Ozama River.

6. During the course of the same morning, my Representative also received reports that some Imbert troops together with some tanks had moved into the Security Zone up to the checkpoints at Avenida Independencia and Avenida George Washington. On checking, my Representative learned that the reports were correct, but that the IAPF had arranged the withdrawal of the Imbert troops.

7. On the evening of 5 July, Colonel Caamaño informed my Representative that three explosions had occurred in the Caamaño zone at about 1930 hours, the main one in front of Las Mercedes Church, near the corner of José-Reyes and Mercedes streets, wounding two priests and two other persons. The information gathered by my Representative seemed to indicate that the firing came from 81 millimetre mortars and was apparently initiated from the Imbert area in the northern part of the city. The IAPF Command has ordered an investigation of this incident (see S/6504).

8. On the night of 6-7 July, an exchange of fire broke out between the IAPF and Caamaño positions along the eastern edge of the Security Zone. According to Colonel Caamaño's headquarters, the firing was initiated by Honduran and Nicaraguan

troops of the IAFP at the intersection of Avenida Pasteur and Avenida Bolívar and later extended down the line to Avenida Independencia. The Caamaño forces claimed to have answered the fire in self-defence, but with far less fire-power than the IAFP. The firing, which was said to be mostly from small arms and automatic weapons, allegedly started shortly after 2300 hours and lasted until about 2330 hours. The Caamaño headquarters also reported to my Representative that according to the information they had received, firing had also come from the La Feria area, which lies just outside the western boundary of the Security Zone and is under General Imbert's control, and that shortly before this firing broke out a helicopter had flown over their zone several times. They subsequently informed my Representative at about 0100 hours on 7 July that further firing was taking place from the Corridor in the vicinity of Enriquillo street.

9. On the same night, General Hugo Panasco Alvim, Commander of the IAFP, issued a statement to the Press on the incident. He charged that Caamaño forces had attacked the IAFP from approximately 2310 hours to 2340 hours. The attack assertedly started against Honduran troops and later switched to positions occupied by Brazilian and Nicaraguan troops. At about 2315 hours, he stated, the Nicaraguan troops returned the fire with 57 millimetre recoilless rifles. General Alvim stated that according to reports he had received the attack of Caamaño forces had been planned. Information supplied by the IAFP Command on this incident during the night of 6-7 July is also contained in three reports transmitted to me by the OAS (see S/6509, S/6511 and S/6514).

10. On 7 July, my Representative carried out an investigation on the events of the night before. He found evidence of indiscriminate firing directly into houses occupied by civilians on Josefa Perdomo street, between Avenida Pasteur and G. Godoy street, and the San Rafael Maternity Clinic, which has a large Red Cross sign on the front, from two IAFP positions at the intersection of Josefa Perdomo street and Avenida Pasteur. Information provided by residents of the area seemed to indicate that the firing of the previous night started

when some five unknown persons approached the IAPF positions on Rosa Duarte street between Avenida Bolívar and Cesar Nicolás Pensón street from an easterly direction. Those residents clearly heard IAPF soldiers ordering the approaching persons to halt before the firing broke out, but they were unable to say who had initiated the firing. After that, the firing spread down to Avenida Independencia and lasted about 15 minutes. The informants believed that the firing on both sides had come from machine-guns and rifles, although two bazooka rounds seemed to have been fired by the IAPF troops near the checkpoint on Avenida Independencia. My Representative found no evidence of any firing from the La Feria area as reported by Colonel Caamaño's staff, but believed, on the basis of the information obtained, that a brief exchange of fire had taken place between IAPF troops in the Corridor and Caamaño troops. He considered that this firing was a reaction to the widespread shooting along the eastern edge of the Security Zone.

11. On the night of 8-9 July, mortar shells were fired into the Caamaño zone. According to the information received from Colonel Caamaño's headquarters, seven mortar shells were fired at approximately midnight, of which three fell into the Caamaño zone, among houses located along Castillo street between Salcedo and Abreu streets. As the shells fell into open spaces, they caused little damage and no one was hurt. This information was verified by my Representative during an investigation on the spot on the morning of 9 July. According to my Representative, the fragments found at the points of impact seemed to be those of 81 millimetre mortar shells and to correspond to the same type of ammunition fired into the area of Las Mercedes Church on 4 July. On the basis of the direction of impact and the pattern of dispersal of the fragments, my Representative tended to believe that the shells had been fired from the northern part of the city, which is under the control of General Imbert's forces.

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12. On the morning of 14 July, my Representative was informed by Colonel Caamaño's headquarters that the police of General Imbert had been stationed at the IAFF checkpoint on the southern boundary of the Corridor at Avenida Duarte and were searching civilians passing through the checkpoint. The Caamaño headquarters observed that this had created much tension among the civilian population of the area and could lead to a serious incident. After verifying that the presence of the Imbert police at the checkpoint was causing considerable tension among the civilian population of the area, my Representative brought the matter to the attention of the IAFF through an OAS official and impressed upon it the need to reduce tension at the checkpoint. An OAS official later informed my Representative that in the last three days civilians in the area of the Corridor had thrown stones at and in some cases had physically attacked members of the Imbert police force. With a view to maintaining order, the IAFF had reportedly decided to prevent the movement of Imbert police in trucks within the Corridor, to establish joint patrols consisting of two IAFF soldiers and one policeman to police the area of the Corridor and to station some Imbert police at the checkpoint at Avenida Duarte. However, in view of the situation, the OAS official indicated, the IAFF had decided to withdraw these police from the checkpoint. By the evening of 14 July, the Imbert police had been withdrawn from the checkpoint and the situation was quiet.

13. My Representative observed that in addition to the incidents mentioned above, there had been almost daily reports by the IAFF of minor unprovoked violations of the cease-fire by the Caamaño forces. Reports by the IAFF of violations of the cease-fire, it may be noted, have been brought to the attention of the Council by the OAS (see S/6465, S/6477, S/6479, S/6433, S/6504, S/6509, S/6511, S/6514, S/6516, S/6520 and S/6524).

14. The Paraguayan contingent of the Inter-American Peace Force, consisting of 135 combat troops, arrived in Santo Domingo on 26 June. With the arrival of this contingent the total strength of the IAFF is 14,100, of which 12,400 are from the United States and 1,700 from Latin American countries. On 3 July, the OAS announced that two United States battalions, comprising 1,400 men, would be withdrawn.

The negotiations for a political settlement

15. The Security Council has been informed directly by the Organization of American States of the general activities of the OAS Ad Hoc Committee, which arrived in Santo Domingo on 3 June.

16. On 18 June, the Ad Hoc Committee submitted to the contending parties and the Dominican people proposals for the solution of the Dominican crisis (S/6457). On 23 June, the replies of the "Constitutional Government" (S/6471) and of the "Government of National Reconstruction" (S/6472) were transmitted to the Ad Hoc Committee. Since then, negotiations have mainly dealt with the selection of a President and a Vice-President of the proposed provisional government.

17. The Ad Hoc Committee had also submitted a draft institutional act to the contending parties. In early July, both parties made comments and counter-proposals on the draft act. My Representative was informed by the Ad Hoc Committee that a commission of jurists composed of a representative each from the two Dominican parties and the OAS would be established in order to reach agreement on this matter.

18. On 15 July, my Representative informed me that the members of the Ad Hoc Committee had departed for Washington to attend OAS meetings there and that the Secretary-General of the OAS had arrived in Santo Domingo to take charge of the OAS mission during their absence.

The situation in the provinces

19. The situation prevailing outside Santo Domingo, which has been potentially explosive since May owing mainly to deteriorating economic conditions, the ineffectiveness of civilian authority and military and police repression, became more acute following an abortive uprising by armed civilians at San Francisco de Macoris on 25 June and a guerilla-type attack against a police post at Ramón Santana on 2 July.

20. These incidents brought about increased military and police controls against the civilian population, growing complaints of violations of human rights and the creation of an atmosphere of fear in some areas. The incidents carry

with them, in my Representative's view, the potential danger of further complicating an already complex situation and, if repeated, could hamper the current negotiations for a political settlement.

21. Two members of my Representative's staff visited San Francisco de Macoris on 28 and 29 June. The local military and police authorities whom they saw described the uprising as an attempt at subversion, carried out by some 250 to 300 armed civilians, some allegedly linked to "communist" organizations, which had begun at 0400 hours on 25 June. According to those authorities, the attack was carried out against the electric power transformers in the southeastern part of the town, as well as against the Duarte Fortress and the northern part of the city. Exchanges of fire took place until about 1030 hours on 25 June, when the attackers were driven out of the town and pursued into nearby hills to the north, where firing continued up to 28 June. Fifteen or sixteen of the attackers were reportedly killed, one army corporal was killed and one soldier wounded during the pursuit action of 26 June. Some forty persons were arrested; sixteen of these were later sent to Santo Domingo and the rest apparently set free.

22. The local authorities said that the attack had been carried out by armed youths from San Francisco de Macoris and Santo Domingo, at the instigation and direction of "communist" elements in the capital and as part of a general plan of rebellion in the northern provinces, which failed apparently because the army and the police had been informed in advance of the plot and had received reinforcements to crush the attack.

23. Civilians in San Francisco de Macoris told my Representative's observers that the attack had been carried out by some 60 to 100 armed civilian youths from the province and Santo Domingo and that although some "communists" might have been involved this attack did not seem to form part of a master plan. They said that fighting was limited and that some of the civilians were probably executed in retaliation later. They felt that the outbreak was a reaction to increased military and police repression and the denial of civil rights.

24. My Representative's observers found an atmosphere of fear in San Francisco de Macoris. They gained the impression that the uprising was supported from the capital and probably formed part of a loose plan for disturbances in the northern provinces and that it was limited in scope and did not involve more than 100 armed civilians. They also tended to believe that some civilians might have been executed in reprisal after the fighting.

25. My Representative's observers also visited Tenares, Moca, Puerto Plata and Santiago de Los Caballeros on 29 June. They found no evidence of unrest in the countryside near San Francisco, though military and police controls were strict at Tenares, Moca and Puerto Plata and civilians complained of repressive measures and human rights violations. The atmosphere was reportedly more relaxed at Santiago de Los Caballeros due perhaps to a gentler and more understanding approach by the military and police commanders.

26. During the last week of June, reports were circulated by the "Constitutionalist" radio station and the newspaper "Patria" to the effect that shooting incidents had occurred in the area of Monte Plata, Centro de Boya and Sabana Grande de Boya and that sugar cane workers had seized two villages near Sabana Grande. On 29 June, a member of my Representative's staff visited the area with General Imbert at the latter's invitation. He found the three towns, as well as the surrounding countryside, quiet and undisturbed.

27. On 2 July, my Representative was informed by General Imbert's office that a police detachment had been attacked early that morning by armed civilians at the village of Ramón Santana, approximately 90 kilometers east of Santo Domingo and some 15 kilometers northeast of San Pedro de Macoris. Two members of his staff made an on-the-spot check and confirmed this report, noting that the local police post, manned by 6 policemen, had been attacked by armed civilians shortly after midnight. Two policemen were killed and three wounded, two of them seriously, while the sixth man escaped unhurt. The police post showed the impacts of some 60 bullets from every direction. The attackers reportedly took one machine-gun and two pistols from the post and fled without suffering casualties.

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Allegations regarding violations of human rights

28. References have been made in my earlier reports (S/6408 and S/6432) to the complaints received by my Representative and at United Nations Headquarters regarding violations of human rights in the Dominican Republic. I have also informed the Council of a request, submitted by the "Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Constitutional Government" to the President of the Council on 26 May 1965, for the dispatch of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to the Dominican Republic in order to investigate the violations of human rights allegedly perpetrated by the "Government of National Reconstruction". On 27 June, the "Foreign Minister of the Constitutional Government" addressed a further telegram to the President of the Council reiterating this request.

29. With regard to the alleged violations of human rights, the OAS advised the Council that the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had arrived in Santo Domingo on 2 June in response to requests made by the two Dominican contending parties. It has since then kept the Council informed of the activities of the Commission in the Dominican Republic.

30. Recently, my Representative received a series of individual complaints involving alleged executions and arbitrary arrests, not only in Santo Domingo, but also in some of the provincial towns where disturbances have occurred such as San Francisco de Macoris and Ramón Santana. In view of the repeated complaints of police repression and reports of political unrest in these localities, my Representative felt it necessary to send two members of his staff on a tour of the northern provinces, on 26-27 May and again on 28-30 June, to obtain first-hand information on the subject.

31. One of the most serious aspects of the alleged violations of human rights is that involving cases of missing persons who were reportedly arrested and whose whereabouts are not known. It is suspected that many of these missing persons have been executed. Thus far some corpses have been found and identified as those of missing persons, but in many other cases it has not been possible to obtain any information about them, despite repeated inquiries made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

32. Shortly after my Representative's visit to the "El Haras" estate where executions were alleged to have taken place (See S/6432), the Secretary-General of the OAS requested a commission of criminologists to investigate these alleged atrocities and others reported to the Commission on Human Rights. A commission composed of three criminologists, Dr. Daniel Schweitzer (Chairman), Dr. Alfonso Quiroz and Dr. Jorge Avendaño, arrived in Santo Domingo on 17-18 June.

33. The Commission of Criminologists recently completed its report, which has been brought to the Council's attention by the OAS (S/6522).

The economic situation

34. In an earlier report (S/6408), I drew attention to the serious economic and social situation in the Dominican Republic. According to my Representative, this situation has become even more acute in recent weeks. Economic activities in the public sector are virtually at a standstill, public revenues have declined with a consequent contraction in expenditure, there is a partial paralysis of the public services and the banking system functions only through a few small offices outside the main financial district of Santo Domingo with limited resources and activities. The lack of personal security in Santo Domingo is a factor accounting for much of the inability and unwillingness to reopen business establishments and other enterprises as well as government offices. Some measure of relief has been provided in the public sector by the payment by the OAS of wages and salaries of public employees with funds made available by the United States Government. These payments, however, are not accepted by the Caamaño group.

35. Commercial and industrial activities outside Santo Domingo have not as yet been very seriously affected by the crisis, although the sugar industry has suffered substantial losses, but the situation in Santo Domingo, where 50,000 persons are employed in these sectors, is said to be extremely serious. Industries are producing at 40 per cent of their capacity due to interruptions of the electric power supply, shortages of raw materials, the closing of commercial banks, a marked decline in demand for products, disruption of the marketing system, and inability to meet the wage bill.

36. Most of these difficulties also hamper trade and commerce. Additional adverse factors are the depletion of stocks, losses from fire or theft, the virtual impossibility of moving goods freely between certain key zones of Santo Domingo, and the difficulty of reopening commercial establishments and stores in the downtown area.

37. The agricultural sector, already hard hit by the recent drought, is seriously affected by the crisis mainly due to the breakdown in transport, marketing and finance, the shortage of supplies, and neglect in the maintenance of irrigation and drainage systems. The combination of low levels of living, lack of incentives, and the decline in income in rural areas has serious implications for the 70 per cent of the country's inhabitants who live in rural areas and may lead to a marked increase in migration into urban areas. The deep sense of frustration felt by many persons who have experienced loss or decline of income and who see no prospects for substantial improvement in their low levels of living is a factor which, in my Representative's view, seriously aggravates political and social tensions in the Dominican Republic.

38. My Representative regards the outlook for industry, commerce and agriculture under present conditions as indeed serious. An early political solution that will bring a relaxation of tension and dispel fears for the individual's personal security is, in his view, essential. It should be accompanied, he feels, by an emergency programme of external financial and technical assistance designed to resolve not only the serious problems arising from the present crisis but also basic deficiencies inherent in the economic structure even before the crisis. The next essential step, once a solid emergency aid programme has been initiated, should be, in my Representative's view, the formulation of an economic and social development plan and the establishment of adequate machinery for its implementation.

