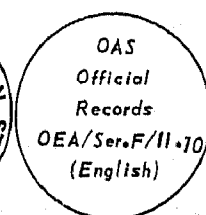


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ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
TENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.

1965

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REPORT  
OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE TENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION  
OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Santo Domingo, D.R.  
March 3, 1966

Mr. President:

The Ad Hoc Committee has the honor to address the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in order to inform it of the events that have taken place in the Dominican Republic since the date of our last report, sent on February 17, 1966.

Once the general strike of February 17 was over, the Provisional President devoted all his efforts to solving the so-called political-military crisis, caused by the difficulties that had arisen in the execution of the decrees of January 6 that ordered certain changes and transfers in the Dominican Armed Forces. During the following eight days, Dr. García Godoy met daily with the Minister of the Armed Forces and other high-ranking officers and with civilian members of his government, to explore various proposals intended to give a suitable solution to the problem. In his conversations with the Ad Hoc Committee the President indicated with all clarity that he would not favor the use of force or of external coercion in the solution of the crisis, affirming that the Dominicans themselves should achieve it on a peaceful basis.

Dr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa  
President of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of  
Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
Washington, D.C.

As a result of these extensive conversations, the Provisional President decided to again reorganize the high commands of the Dominican Armed Forces. On February 26, Col. Helio Osiris Perdomo was temporarily promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and sworn in as Chief of Staff of the Army; Col. Juan Nepomuceno Polch Pérez was similarly promoted and sworn in as Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Dr. García Godoy named the predecessors of these officials, General Jacinto Martínez Arana and General Juan de Dios de los Santos Céspedes, Vice Ministers of the Armed Forces for the Army and the Air Force, respectively. The Provisional President completed the process of reorganization with the naming of Navy Captain Miguel Alcides Cintrón Romero as Vice Minister of the Armed Forces for the Navy. Once these changes were made, Dr. García Godoy indicated to the press his confidence that the political-military crisis had been overcome and that the country could resume the great task of preparing itself for the elections.

On February 23, the Provisional President addressed a letter to the Minister of the Armed Forces and to the Minister of the Interior and Police, by which he called upon the military forces to maintain an attitude of absolute impartiality during the election campaign. The replies of the two ministers were issued publicly on February 28, and in them they promised that the organizations under their command would observe completely impartial conduct. (These letters are shown as Appendices I and II to this report.)

On March 1, the Minister of the Armed Forces publicly gave orders to the Chiefs of Staff of the three services, establishing rules of conduct for the armed forces during the electoral campaign. The Minister ordered that the high chiefs should see to it that the men under their respective commands should maintain an attitude of complete impartiality and not mix in political matters, warning them that if this were not the case they would run the risk of being discharged. The Minister also emphasized the necessity for the military personnel to obey the legally constituted civil authorities.

For his part, the Minister of the Interior and Police gave orders to the Chief of the National Police designed to assure that the police would always act within the framework of complete impartiality, at the same time maintaining public order and offering their protection "indiscriminately" to all the candidates. The Minister announced that the patrolling of the urban zones would be exclusively the responsibility of the National Police during the period of the electoral campaign. The assistance of the armed forces would be requested in those sectors only in the event of emergency. (Appendix III)

As an additional measure intended to establish a suitable atmosphere for the campaign, the Minister of the Interior and Police informed the press that he planned to request the transfer of the units of the Inter-American

Peace Force, that at present are camped in urban areas of Santo Domingo to outlying zones. The Ad Hoc Committee was pleased to report to the President that measures in this regard were already being taken and that most of the detachments of the Inter-American Peace Force would be camped outside the city limits from now on.

On March 1 the electoral campaign began, which will culminate in the elections to be held on June 1. The Central Electoral Board took the occasion to issue a special proclamation in which it promised to put the electoral laws and regulations into effect strictly and equitably. Through this proclamation it appealed to all citizens to make use of the right to vote, pointing out to them that "only from the ballot boxes, which express the collective will, can one hope for effective remedies to put a definitive end to the innumerable and serious evils that are keeping the country in constant anguish and that have caused it so many injuries in every way." (A copy is included as Appendix IV to this report.)

In addition to this constructive message's being issued, the Provisional President sent a letter to the chairmen of the eight political parties presently recognized by the Central Electoral Board, pointing out the need for these parties to conduct their political campaigns in a constructive manner, emphasizing compliance with the legal precepts and mutual respect among the various contenders. (Appendix V)

On March 2 the Provisional President issued Decree No. 143, convoking the holding of elections set for June 1, 1966.

While the conventions of the political parties have not yet been held, and consequently the candidates have not been officially nominated, political activities have begun to take place on a large scale in various parts of the country, with the beginning of the organization of the political parties in order to participate in the coming campaign. Doubts continue to exist as to whether the Partido Revolucionario Dominicano (Dominican Revolutionary Party)--evidently one of the most important political groups--will participate in the elections. Its chairman, Professor Juan Bosch, has alleged on various occasions that the members of his party have not been able to conduct political activities because of the persecutions carried out against them by certain elements that supposedly include certain members of the Armed Forces and of the Police. The spokesmen of the military forces have rejected those accusations, and in view of the guarantees publicly issued by the Armed Forces and the National Police, the Committee is confident that Professor Bosch and his colleagues will find that it will be possible for them to participate in the electoral contest.

An additional measure taken for the purpose of creating a propitious climate for elections has been the sending by President García Godoy of a request addressed to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, that the Technical Assistance Mission on electoral matters return to the country. It is hoped that the members of that mission will be in Santo Domingo during the electoral campaign, to handle pertinent inquiries from the Central Electoral Board.

While there has been a marked improvement as regards the maintenance of public order during the period covered by this report, regrettable cases of violence continued to occur.

At approximately 12:45 A.M. on February 17, one child was killed and four adults were wounded when a grenade exploded on the roof of the house bearing number 339 of Calle José Martí, at the corner of Padre Castellanos, in this city. The author of this attack was a corporal belonging to the Fourth Brigade of the Dominican National Army, who apparently acted impelled by reasons of a political character.

Around midday on the same day, February 17, a bomb of high explosive power exploded in the gardens in front of the Palace of the Ayuntamiento (City Hall) of the National District, in the "Center of Heroes," fortunately without causing personal or physical harm.

That same day, February 17, some incidents were reported in towns in the interior of the republic, without their showing characteristics of major seriousness.

On last Friday night, a private of the National Police died instantly at the place where he was wounded by shots savagely fired at him by unknown persons who were traveling in an automobile. This event took place at the intersection of Avenida Máximo Gómez and Calle Américo Lugo, in this city.

On the afternoon of the same day, last Friday, there was another incident in the "Duarte" station of the National Police, between guards of that station and a private in the service of the "Constitutionalist" Lieutenant Colonel Canela Escaño, of the National Police, when the aforementioned private went to the police station in search of a barber to attend Lieutenant Colonel Canela, who was visiting in the house of Héctor Aristy, former Minister in the Government of Colonel Caamaño. The house of Dr. Aristy, located two hundred meters from the police headquarters, showed several bullet holes in the front. Dr. Aristy considered the incident as something intentional directed against him, while an official spokesman of the National Police stated that the incident began when the private unexpectedly fired in the direction of the police headquarters with an automatic rifle, his possession of which was totally illegal. Lieutenant Colonel Canela is at present supervisor of the night patrols of the police, but is on leave by order of the Provisional President.

Two deaths and the wounding of five persons were the result of the explosion of a grenade placed by unknown persons in a cabaret of this city on the night of last Sunday, February 27.

At about 10:30 A.M. on the same day, Sunday, February 27, minor disorders occurred in the center of the city of Santo Domingo, provoked by students, when a government committee went to deposit a floral offering on the national altar, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ramón Matía Mella, hero of independence. When the committee approached, made up of the Vice President of the Republic, the Minister of Education, the Mayor of the National District, and other persons, a group of youths shouted together phrases hostile to the Provisional Government. The students and other persons who joined them, some 400 in all, who were carrying flags of the Dominican Communist Party, the 14th of June Movement, and the Dominican Popular Movement, shouted together anti-American slogans and burned a U.S. flag, while distributing flyers protesting the presence of the Inter-American Peace Force in the country.

The foreign journalists present were also booed by the students, and some of them were called "spies" and "agents of the CIA" (Central Intelligence Agency). The correspondent of UPI, Nat Gibson, was surrounded by a group in which shouts of "kill him" were heard. The incident did not have a tragic outcome, because someone said that Gibson was French and not a U.S. national. On that same occasion the Dominican cameraman working for "ABC," Hugo Mateo, was beaten when he was getting ready to film an incident provoked by some students who shouted "assassins" at the crew of a police patrol car that was traveling by the place. The policemen got out of the car, which caused the students to disperse. The Chief of the National Police, General Morillo, ordered the arrest of the corporal of that corps who beat Mateo, and issued a circular letter addressed to all the members of the National Police, stressing the necessity of giving cooperation and protection to all the journalists in the performance of their professional work.

In the early morning hours of March 2, a bomb exploded in the house of Dr. Jaime Acosta Torres, a member of the National Executive Committee of the Dominican Revolutionary Party. Although Dr. Acosta's automobile was seriously damaged, there were no personal injuries. Referring to this incident, Professor Bosch alleged that the persons responsible for the act were "well known by the authorities." This Committee has been informed that the competent authorities do not know the bases for those allegations and have not received information from Professor Bosch that could help them in clearing up the case.

The Ad Hoc Committee takes this occasion to express to the President of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ilmar Penna Marinho  
Special Delegate of Brazil

Ramón de Clairmont Dueñas  
Special Delegate of El Salvador

Ellsworth Bunker  
Special Delegate of the United States

Santo Domingo  
February 23, 1966

General Enrique Pérez y Pérez  
Minister of the Armed Forces  
His Office

Sir:

The electoral campaign will begin throughout the national territory on March 1, 1966, for the important elections to be held on June 1, 1966, in compliance with the provisions of Law No. 69, dated December 1, 1965.

The principal task of the Provisional Government is the holding of the coming general elections, and in view of the proximity of this important event, the Armed Forces of the nation will be responsible for maintaining the principles of duty, honor, and rectitude, above the violent feelings and the disputes that have characterized Dominican life in recent times.

All persons who wish to participate in political proselytizing within the framework of guarantees established by the law should be respected by the men in uniform, whose institutional work should remain free of any partisan feelings of political sectarianism in order to insure an honest and impartial campaign. Although certain sectors wish to discredit the sound objectives of the Government, I firmly maintain the decision to create a suitable climate for free elections, by ensuring the inherent rights of individuals, for which it is necessary that the Armed Forces assume an attitude in accord with those high purposes. This attitude implies that there shall be no abuse of power, that no acts of violence shall be committed, and that there shall be complete impartiality towards all citizens.

This attitude, I repeat, will serve as the best basis for me in my capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the military institutions to become their staunchest defender before public opinion, preventing political passion and animosity from taking the Armed Forces as a target for their attacks in order to preserve at any cost the integrity and solidarity of those forces. I am aware that in view of the extremist movements that agitate the country and endeavor to keep it in a state of convulsion, the most effective means for ensuring the security of the state is the Armed Forces, well organized and disciplined, and in complete obedience to the civil authorities.

Only with armed forces obedient to the civil authorities and willing to obey their orders and to respect the law, with a calm and understanding attitude, working in their barracks with a view to achieving the grandeur of the country and respect for the rights of others, will it be possible

to clear the atmosphere of suspicion and doubts, in order to establish a climate of security and the necessary guarantees for exercising the right to vote.

In your capacity as Minister of the Armed Forces and as a military man who obeys the orders of the civil government, I am pleased to say that the conduct of the Armed Forces, in accordance with the plan I have set forth, will contribute to the stability of the government that will arise from the will of the Dominican people, and to the preservation of the institutions and the democratic system, which is the only system of peaceful harmonious existence and civilized life in the modern countries.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(s) Héctor García Godoy



Santo Domingo,  
February 23, 1966

Mr. Manuel Joaquín Castillo  
Minister of the Interior and Police  
His Office

Sir:

The principal objective of the Provisional Government is the holding of general elections on June 1, 1966, and this important civic event will be initiated with an electoral campaign that begins on March 1, 1966.

The proximity of the electoral campaign is a suitable occasion to mention to you the important mission of the National Police, under your Ministry, during the election period. This institution, whose duty is to enforce compliance with the rules issued by the authorities in order to maintain public order, should work for the security of the leaders of the political parties and of the general public participating in the electoral debate, acting with strictness and wisdom, avoiding committing any acts of violence, while preventing any disturbance of the peace, and guaranteeing calm and order among the population and the safety of private property against the excesses of street mobs.

The action of the National Police is very important to the success of this government's task. In order to establish and impose legal measures through the pertinent bodies of the police, the members of that institution will have to adjust their conduct to the strict fulfilment of the law, without engaging in political activity, obeying the orders of the civil government, to ensure a peaceful electoral campaign and the free exercise of the political institutions, keeping watch and preventing any subversive acts or movements instigated by any group.

The need for assuring and guaranteeing respect for the inherent rights of individuals is of great concern to the government and I trust that the National Police, as an institution of the government, conducting itself with impartiality and in cooperation and reciprocity with the other authorities, will be able to achieve full respect for human rights and the holding of exemplary elections that will help to banish hatred from the Dominican family, in accordance with the purposes that have always guided the Provisional Government.

I reiterate my confidence in the National Police, as an organization safeguarding public order, and I hope that its actions during the electoral campaign will contribute to establishing the climate of public confidence that is essential to the right to vote.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(s) Héctor García Godoy

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND POLICE  
TO THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SANTO DOMINGO,  
FEBRUARY 25, 1966

NUMBER 2831

DOCTOR HECTOR GARCIA GODOY  
PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
HIS OFFICE

MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 23, 1966, IN WHICH YOU INFORM ME THAT THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS ON JUNE 1, 1966, IS THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND IN WHICH YOU INDICATE THE CONDUCT THAT SHOULD BE OBSERVED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE DURING THE CAMPAIGN BEGINNING ON MARCH 1.

I SHARE YOUR OPINION FULLY. WITHOUT A DOUBT THE BASIC MISSION OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS TO OFFER HONEST ELECTIONS TO THE COUNTRY, AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH PREVIOUSLY A SUITABLE ELECTORAL CLIMATE.

IT IS CERTAINLY THE DUTY OF THE NATIONAL POLICE TO FULFILL A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE DURING THE COMING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, BECAUSE THIS BODY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER AND FOR GIVING PROTECTION INDISCRIMINATELY TO ALL THE LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THOSE PARTIES. THESE ARE FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS FOR ENSURING THE CONDUCTING OF A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND THE FREE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THE POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS SHOULD DO SO IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE AND FULL EQUALITY OF CONDITIONS.

THEREFORE, I AM WRITING TODAY TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE, GENERAL JOSE DE JESUS MORILLO LOPEZ, ORDERING HIM IMMEDIATELY TO GIVE THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE FORCE, FROM THE OFFICERS OF HIGHEST RANK TO THE POLICE PRIVATES, TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITH THE GREATEST IMPARTIALITY WHEREVER THEY MAY BE ON DUTY, ABSTAINING FROM ANY PARTISAN ACTIVITIES, AND ADHERING TO THE STRICT FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW.

I ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THIS MINISTRY WILL TAKE ANY MEASURES NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THE JUNE 1 ELECTIONS WILL BE AS THEY SHOULD BE: THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

RESPECTFULLY,

MANUEL JOAQUIN CASTILLO  
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND POLICE

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE  
TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND POLICE

SANTO DOMINGO  
MARCH 1, 1966

NUMERO 3512

MR. MANUEL JOAQUIN CASTILLO  
MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND POLICE  
HIS OFFICE

SIR:

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ YOUR LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 25, 1966, IN WHICH THE MINISTRY TRANSMITS TO ME THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, DOCTOR HECTOR GARCIA GODOY, REGARDING THE CONDUCT THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE SHOULD OBSERVE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONDUCTING OF A PEACEFUL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND TO ACHIEVING IN THE FULL MEANING OF THE WORD, THE FREE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 1, 1966.

I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE MISSION THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE SHOULD PERFORM AT THE PRESENT MOMENT AND IN THE COMING DAYS, AND TO THIS END I AM DEVOTING ALL MY ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY IN ORDER THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER AND RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL DOMINICANS, AND ESPECIALLY OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS, IN VIEW OF THEIR IMPORTANCE IN THIS NATIONAL EVENT, TO PARTICIPATE UNDER CONDITIONS OF FULL EQUALITY IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN BEGINNING TODAY MAY BE A REALITY IN OUR COUNTRY. I ALSO WISH TO STATE THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE WILL PROTECT, WITH COMPLETE IMPARTIALITY, THE SAFETY OF ALL THOSE LEADERS AND OF THE CITIZENS TAKING PART IN THIS ELECTORAL CONTEST, WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

I ASSURE YOU, SIR, AND THROUGH YOU THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THAT I SHALL DO EVERYTHING THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE SO THAT THE MEN UNDER MY COMMAND WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND ABSTAIN FROM ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY, OBEYING WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS THE ORDERS OF THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT. TO THIS END, I HAVE INSTRUCTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO INSTRUCT THE POLICE PERSONNEL, BY MEANS OF CIRCULAR LETTERS AND ALL OTHER AVAILABLE MEANS, REGARDING THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES AT ALL TIMES AND UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TOWARDS THE CITIZENS.

I HAVE ALSO ORDERED YOUR THOUGHTFUL OBSERVATIONS ON THE INSTRUCTIONS TRANSMITTED TO ME TO BE PRINTED, FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THIS INSTITUTION, AND I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED A COMMITTEE OF OFFICERS TO VISIT THE VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING TO THEM AND INFORMING THEM OF THE RULES ISSUED BY THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE INTERPRETED FAITHFULLY AND OBEYED, AND SO THAT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, ALL DOMINICANS WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF ANY KIND MAY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS EQUALLY, IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE THEREBY SO THAT THE COMING ELECTIONS WILL REFLECT THE TRUE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

JOSE J. MORILLO LOPEZ  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE

CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD  
APPEAL

The field has been opened to the pre-electoral contest, in which each of the contenders for the selective functions of the state, and their respective parties, will explain to the electors the body of ideas they propose to carry out from positions of power, and the reasons on which they base their legitimate aspirations.

The Central Electoral Board, on such an occasion so vital for the sovereign interests of the nation, complies with the imperative duty of making an urgent appeal to the citizenry so that it will prepare to exercise its right and fulfill its unavoidable obligation to vote, with full awareness of the very significant act that it performs, and with all the responsibility that it carries with it.

It is an unquestionable truth--and there is no honest divergence of opinion in this unanimous feeling--that only from the ballot boxes, which express the collective will, can one hope for effective remedies to put a definitive end to the innumerable and serious evils that are keeping the country in constant anguish and that have caused it so many injuries in every way.

It is necessary--if we wish to ward off the threat of complete and irreparable ruin that hangs over the nation--to give our institutions solid stability, to subject all these irritated passions to the law of duty, to give our democracy unequivocal authenticity, to eliminate violent internal dissensions, to establish a constant and sure climate of social and moral peace.

And these supreme and noble objectives, which merge with and identify themselves with the highest and most imperative national interests, will not be fully achieved unless every Dominican who is legally competent to do so participates in the elections moved by the feeling that he is responding to a sacred and unavoidable mandate of his conscience.

Thus the only path for overcoming the heavy crises that oppress us is to return, through elections, to an authentic regime of law.

Every Dominican has the future of his own country in his hands from today on, and he cannot decline this honorable responsibility.

The political leaders, the labor union leaders, the businessmen, the teachers and professors, the spiritual and religious guides, all sectors, in short, that make up the people and the nation, should prepare to collaborate, in a magnanimous display, in a generous offering of all their abilities, in the great task of translating into a reality the high aspiration for elections that will save the country from moral, social, and economic bankruptcy.

In order for them to achieve their urgent purpose, these elections must be marked by high decorum, so that we will deserve applause and admiration; the entire confidence of all must be gained by the exemplary honesty in which they are conducted; and by the freedom in which they are held we must earn the title of a genuinely democratic people, gifted with civic virtues and possessing full political maturity.

The Central Electoral Board will fulfill all its duties with austere strictness, and with severe equity it will enforce the laws and provisions that guarantee the honesty, purity, and legitimacy of the elections of next June 1.

The members of the Central Electoral Board, deeply conscious of the delicate and serious mission that weighs so heavily on their shoulders, earnestly request the generous cooperation of their fellow citizens, which will permit them to carry out their high mission for the good, peace, and happiness of all, so that the peoples of the world, which are now beginning to look at us with preferential and easily startled attention, will be surprised by our outstanding vocation for freedom, our noble passion for the law, and our attachment to the rules of justice.

HECTOR GARCIA GODOY  
Provisional President of the Dominican Republic

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

IN THE NAME OF THE REPUBLIC

NUMBER: 137

WHEREAS:

The Provisional Government is endeavoring to create a climate of harmony that will favor the coming of peace and domestic order throughout the national territory, with a view to the forthcoming holding of elections by which the country will return to constitutional order;

WHEREAS:

An effective contribution to these purposes can be made by forgetting criminal acts committed under exceptional circumstances by persons who ordinarily do not offer any danger to society, which acts have followed impulses of excessive passion and false evaluations, as is witnessed by the circumstance that a group of those implicated in such events, including their most prominent leaders, have given their word not to repeat the crimes of which they are accused and spontaneously returned to prison;

WHEREAS:

It is highly worthy to take into account the intercession in behalf of the persons involved in the events that occurred in the city of Santiago on November 22, 1965, made by His Excellency the Most Reverend Papal Nuncio of His Holiness, Monsignor E. Clarizio, as an act of clemency befitting his office and the Christian faith that he represents, echoing also the message addressed by His Holiness the Pope in behalf of mutual love and reciprocal understanding among all Dominicans; and

HAVING SEEN Article 2 of the Institutional Act, I issue the following

LAW:

Article 1. Full and complete amnesty is granted to all those persons who participated in the criminal acts that occurred in the city of Santiago on November 22, 1965, whose names appear in the judicial records made that are in the possession of the Attorney General of the Republic, some of whom are under preventive or provisional arrest.

Article 2. The amnesty referred to by the present law shall not extend to or have any effect with respect to the civil indemnifications for damages and injuries or restitutions that may be ordered as a consequence of the acts referred to.

GIVEN AND PROMULGATED at the National Palace, Santo Domingo, National District, Capital of the Dominican Republic, this twenty-sixth day of the month of February of the year one thousand nine hundred sixty-six, the 122nd year of Independence and the 103rd year of the Restoration.

Let this be published in the Official Gazette and in a newspaper of wide national circulation.

(s) Héctor García Godoy



LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO  
THE CHAIRMEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES RECOGNIZED  
BY THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD

GENTLEMEN:

TODAY THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS, AND THIS IS A PROPITIOUS OCCASION FOR ADDRESSING A SINCERE MESSAGE OF GREETING TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES RECOGNIZED BY THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD AND EXHORTING THEM TO CONDUCT A PROSELYTIZING DEBATE IN WHICH THE PROPRIETY AND HIGH LEVEL OF LANGUAGE, THE FEASIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS, AND PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS WILL BE STANDARDS MAINTAINED IN THE CONTEST THAT IS BEGINNING.

THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ARRIVED--IF WE ASPIRE TO CAST OFF THE DEAD WEIGHT OF DIATRIBE, PERSONAL INSULT, AND VERBALISTIC EXPLOSIONS, SO DAMAGING TO THE DESIRED UNDERSTANDING THAT SHOULD PREVAIL AMONG THE DOMINICANS--FOR IDEAS TO BE RECIPROCALLY RESPECTED, EVEN IF THEY ARE MISTAKEN, AND FOR THE MOVEMENT OF GROUPS IN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTS OF CROWDS TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT DISTURBING ORDER OR ENDANGERING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CITIZENS OR OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, SO AS TO AVOID THE AUTHORITIES' INTERVENING IN FULFILLMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW.

THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE AN OCCASION FOR THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE TO SHOW EXAMPLES OF CIVIC SPIRIT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE TRANQUILLITY AND CALM FOR WHICH THE NATIONAL FAMILY LONGS, BECAUSE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ONLY A FREE AND ORDERLY ELECTORAL PROCESS THAT WILL RESULT IN A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT CAN SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AND SOLVE THE MANY PROBLEMS OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY.

FEROCITY OF ELECTIONEERING DEBATE MUST BE ABANDONED, TO GIVE WAY TO COMPREHENSION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, TO CORDIALITY BETWEEN PARTIES, AND TO RESPECT FOR THE POLITICAL POSITIONS OF OTHERS. IN THIS SITUATION, WHEN THE RESULT OF THE ELECTORAL CONTEST IS PRODUCED, THERE WILL NOT BE, PROPERLY SPEAKING, EITHER VANQUISHED OR VICTORS, BUT RATHER DOMINICANS ENGAGED IN REBUILDING A GOVERNMENT OF LAW AND RECOVERING OUR BATTERED AND MEDIATIZED SOVEREIGNTY.

MAY THIS PERSONAL LONGING OF MINE AS TO WHAT THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN SHOULD BECOME A REALITY, AND MAY IT AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD.

GOD, COUNTRY, AND FREEDOM.

(s) HECTOR GARCIA GODOY