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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1. The following information concerning the situation in the Dominican Republic has been received from the office of my Representative there.
2. Serious disturbances broke out in the city of Santo Domingo on 16 December 1965. The disturbances started at approximately 1300 hours local time following a demonstration by strikers in the Enriquillo park. This demonstration was organized by the strike committee of the Federación Nacional de Empleados Públicos e Instituciones Autónomas (FENEPIA) and representatives of the Sugar Workers Union in support of demands by public workers and employees of the Corporación Azucarera Dominicana (CAD). IAPF troops dispersed the demonstrators in the neighbourhood of the Enriquillo park. Trouble began when youths started scattering uncollected garbage in the middle of streets and the situation gradually got out of control. At about 1600 hours, unidentified groups started to overturn temporary Christmas shops which had been set up along Avenida Duarte and Avenida Mella in Ciudad Nueva. Many of these shops were destroyed, some of them being burned down. Demonstrators also burned tyres and blocked streets with garbage cans and empty oil drums. When a detachment of IAPF soldiers appeared in the area of the disturbances, they were met with stones. One of them, who was driving a military jeep, was hit on the head by stones and the jeep crashed into a telegraph pole and caught fire. The IAPF soldiers withdrew from Ciudad Nueva at about 1700 hours. About fifty persons were arrested by the Police.
3. A number of public workers and employees went back to work on 16 December. In the Ministry of Finance, the situation was nearly restored to normal as striking employees returned to work, but employees of the Ministries of Agriculture, of Public Works and of Health and Social Security as well as the workers in the sugar mills continued to strike as of 17 December. The strike also spread to some areas in the provinces. In San Cristobal, most of the public workers went on strike on

16 December in support of those of Santo Domingo. In Santiago and Moca, personnel of the post and communications and public works services also staged a strike, which continued as of 17 December.

4. During the night of 16-17 December and early in the morning of the 17th, several rounds of rifle fire were fired in the area of Avenida Duarte and Avenida Mella. Some groups of youths threw stones at IAPF patrols, which had been reinforced. A number of arrests were made by the Police on the morning of 17 December.

5. The Government and the IAPF co-operated in an effort to re-establish law and order and re-open all roads. A mixed force of approximately 400 police and Dominican army elements moved into the troubled area just south and west of Duarte Bridge. Elements of the Dominican armed forces established themselves along the eastern approaches and the east end of the bridge, while an IAPF convoy opened up a supply route from Avenida Washington northwards to Duarte Bridge along Isabel la Católica street.

6. The disturbances which began on 16 December and increased during the following night appeared to be waning in the face of the determined efforts of the Government. By noon of 17 December, the situation in Santo Domingo was returning to normal.
