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

Addendum

1. The following information regarding the situation in the Dominican Republic has been received from my Representative there, Mr. José Antonio Mayobre, since the circulation of my last report on the subject (S/CONF.22/Add.1) on 26 October 1965.
2. As indicated in my last report (S/CONF.22/Add.1, para. 5), troops of the Inter-American Peace Force were deployed in Ciudad Nueva in Santo Domingo on 25 October following a request of the President of the Provisional Government. On 26 October, my Representative informed me that the deployment of the IAPF in Ciudad Nueva had been completed. From a strong base established on 25 October around Ozama Fortress and the port, IAPF troops with tanks and other heavy weapons had spread out to control all major business buildings, city road junctions, public squares and places of historical significance.
3. My Representative reported that the hub of the IAPF deployment in Ciudad Nueva was Plaza Independencia, from which all approaches were covered by a series of observation posts and fire positions in support of numerous mobile patrols. IAPF troops had occupied the former "constitutionalist" command post areas, including the Copello building which had been the headquarters of the "Constitutionalist Government", the recent residence of former President Juan Bosch, and several houses in the vicinity. Communications vehicles were stationed at every street corner of importance, and the use of many narrow streets was restricted by the presence of heavy tanks. Heavily armed roving patrols moved throughout the daylight hours on all streets. Some tanks and other mobile weapons were parked on the grounds of the Padre Bellini Hospital, near churches and in front of El Conde Gate, the national heroes monument.
4. The Government informed my Representative that a number of special police unit personnel on duty in Ciudad Nueva had been disarmed by IAPF troops. On learning of this, the Department of Interior withdrew the police personnel from the city.

5. Many civilians complained to my Representative that IAFF troops, together with the National Police, had searched houses and had made a number of arrests and that several civilians were being detained in the military compound of the United States contingent of the IAFF at San Souci. My Representative received numerous requests, including some from Government officials, that he use his good offices to secure the release of the persons detained. My Representative was informed by the Government that IAFF troops were only authorized to detain persons who might attack or demonstrate against them. He was informed by the IAFF, on 27 October, that the persons they had detained had been immediately handed over to the Dominican Police and that they understood that those persons had been released later. The IAFF categorically stated that no detainees were being held by them. As regards searches in houses, the Government indicated that while the IAFF had been asked to arrange searches for weapons, the searches should be physically carried out by the National Police. It was alleged that searches had been made by IAFF personnel in some instances. In this connexion, the Government explained that although the National Police had been ordered to assist the IAFF, they had not been able to do so in some cases, owing to the lack of proper organization. On 26 October, the National Police had assumed traffic duties. A Government communiqué broadcast on Radio Santo Domingo announced the same evening that the National Police would co-operate with the IAFF as of 27 October.

6. On 26 and 27 October there were a number of demonstrations against the IAFF which were dispersed by IAFF troops without incidents. In Corde street and, especially, at the road junction opposite El Corde Gate and in the area of the Copello building, there was excitement and annoyance amongst the population at the presence of IAFF troops. My Representative made a tour of the city during the morning of 27 October. He saw IAFF troops deployed in force. Heavy tanks, recoilless guns, heavily armed jeeps and concentrations of armed personnel in front of buildings, in streets as well as on rooftops, were seen in many areas. Several people approached my Representative requesting him to help in bringing about the withdrawal of IAFF troops from the city. My Representative reported that the Government as well as the OAS Ad Hoc Committee were acquainted with the feeling of resentment of the population and had informed him that they intended to replace IAFF troops with the National Police as soon as possible.

7. As of 26 October, the presidential decree confining all Dominican military personnel to barracks had been applied only to "constitutionalist" troops and not to the Dominican Armed Forces. About 1,400 "constitutionalist" troops were confined in the "27 February Camp". The IAFF, with the support of troops of the Dominican Armed Forces, had restricted to the minimum all entry into or exit from the camp. "Constitutionalist" military personnel had not been allowed to leave the camp since the evening of 24 October, and this situation was said to be becoming explosive.
8. My Representative noted that sanitary conditions in the "27 February Camp" were barely adequate. Most of the sorely needed medical supplies which were to have arrived at the camp over a week ago had been delayed owing to a series of omissions on the part of the Dominican military authorities, and only a part of the supplies requested by the doctors in the camp had been delivered, through the personal intervention of the President and from civilian sources of supply.
9. My Representative also received reports of acts of violence and lawlessness elsewhere in the city of Santo Domingo and in the interior of the country.
10. During the morning of 25 October, a group of armed persons conducted a search throughout the Ministry building for the alleged purpose of looking for "communist elements"; they detained and later attacked the Minister for Public Works, Mr. Salvador Sturla, in the Ministry premises. The Minister escaped unhurt, but his car and that of another official were set on fire. Elements of the Dominican Armed Forces stationed near the Ministry building reportedly did not intervene.
11. During the morning of 26 October, the Ministry of Public Works was again the object of an unlawful act when an armed group of persons calling themselves "Comando democratico y anticomunista No. 1" occupied the Ministry building until troops of the Dominican Armed Forces made them vacate it.
12. Meanwhile, the Director of Immigration reported to the office of my Representative, on 25 October, that the commercial airport in Santo Domingo "Aeropuerto Puerto Caucedo" had been occupied by CEFA (Training Institute of the Armed Forces) troops which had prevented the Director and immigration officials detailed to the airport from reaching it.
13. My Representative noted that the Administration as a whole had not escaped the effects of the prevailing climate of uneasiness and tension and had come to a state of virtual standstill.

14. Reports from the interior of the country were considered by my Representative as equally disquieting. To the tragic events of 24 October reported in S/6822/Add.1 must be added the attempted assassination of Dr. Abreu Arelló, a leader of the "Partido Revolucionario Dominicano" (PRD) in Moca Province, which took place during the night of 25/26 October in the town of Gaspar Hernández. Dr. Abreu Arelló was critically wounded.

15. Recent acts of violence have claimed the lives of two leading political personalities belonging to the PRD, Mr. Manuel de Jesús Haddad, Governor of Valverde Province, and Mr. Aquiles Leyba Mates, labour and political leader. As reported in the preceeding paragraph, a third PRD member, Dr. Abreu Arelló, has been critically wounded. The national leadership of the PRD, claiming that scores of their affiliates had been assassinated during the past two months, expressed to my Representative their alarm over what they regarded as a clear and systematic pattern of violence against their party.

16. In commenting on the worsening situation in the Dominican Republic, my Representative noted that the crisis that had arisen between the Government and the high command of the Dominican Armed Forces remained the most important issue. In this connexion, he reported that the OAS Ad Hoc Committee had had several meetings during the last three days with the President and the Cabinet, but that, as of 26 October, there was no indication that a satisfactory solution had been found.
