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CABLE DATED 13 APRIL 1966 FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In the absence of the Secretary General and in accordance with Article 54 of the United Nations Charter, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the Security Council, the text of cable No. 1057, dated 12 April, sent by the Ad Hoc Committee to the Chairman of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation.

"Santo Domingo  
"12 April 1966

"No. 1057

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

"The Ad Hoc Committee has the honour to address the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in order to inform it of the situation in the Dominican Republic in the period since 23 March 1966, the date of our last report.

"1. The majority of the political parties will be holding their national conventions during this month of April. At the national convention which it held on 9 and 10 April, the Dominican Revolutionary Party decided to take part in the elections to be held next June and it elected as its candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency respectively former President Juan Bosch and Silvestre Antonio Guzman Fernandez, a land-owner who held the office of Minister of Agriculture during the former Constitutional Government of Professor Bosch. Last Sunday, 10 April, the Evolutionist Liberal Party, too, elected its candidates for those offices, choosing Rafael F. Bonnely for the Presidency and Dr. Tabaro Alvarez for the Vice-Presidency. The Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard will decide this month whether it will support the National Integration Movement in the forthcoming elections. The Reform Party and the National Civic Union will elect their candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic at the national conventions to be held on 17 April. The Social-Christian Revolutionary Party will decide

at its national convention, which is also to be held on 17 April, whether to support the candidature of former President Juan Bosch and Guzman Fernandez for the Dominican Revolutionary Party or whether it will take part alone in the elections to be held on 1 June.

"2. After an interview between the leaders of the 14th of June movement and the Provisional President, the leaders of the movement stated that the President had promised them that he would take a decision on the petition to legalize that political organization. On 9 April the local newspapers reported that the Provisional Government had abrogated Act No. 77 of 2 December 1963, under which the 14th of June political group had been declared illegal. Thus the 14th of June movement became a recognized political group protected by the law. It has announced, in a press report, that next Sunday, the 17th, it will hold a rally in Enriqueillo Park at which it will declare its position on the forthcoming elections and 'rally the people to the struggle that must be developed against Yankee imperialism and its invasion troops'. The 14th of June movement had in the recent past been leading a series of peaceful demonstrations to gain public support for its effort to induce the Provisional Government to grant it legality.

"3. At a small meeting held on 2 April in Santo Domingo, the former 'Constitutionalist' Minister Hector Aristy formally launched his 24th of April movement. Mr. Aristy stated that the movement was not a political party but a group seeking to restore national sovereignty, its first goal being the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force. He also said that the movement had other, long-term, objectives, and he praised Colonel Caamaño, who he said would return to the Dominican Republic when the people asked him to. The meeting endorsed a declaration of principles and a plan to establish the internal organization of the new movement with a view to arranging for a later meeting on a large scale.

"4. In radio speeches since 31 March, former President Juan Bosch has repeatedly denied the charges of communism which have been levelled against him by political opponents, e.g. in an item which appeared in the newspaper El Caribe on 26 March reproducing a paid notice from the 5 March edition of the newspaper El Universal of Caracas about alleged secret agreements adopted at the Tricontinental Conference recently held at Havana involving former President Bosch and Colonel Francisco Caamaño Denó. In his 4th of April speech Professor Bosch said that he would 'support Colonel Caamaño if the Dominican Revolutionary Party put him forward as a candidate for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency of the Republic'. The former President added that 'in an office like the Vice-Presidency, Colonel Caamaño would be the best guarantee of the preservation of the armed forces'. Former President Bosch also asserted that members of the military could stand for election as President or Vice-President and stated that 'our country is governed today by the Institutional Act, which is equivalent to a constitution, and nowhere in this Act is it stated that a member of the military may not be a candidate for the Presidency, Vice-Presidency or any other office in which the people vote during an election'.

"5. Referring to the remarks of former President Bosch, the Provisional President stated that in order for Colonel Caamaño to be eligible for nomination as Vice-President of the Republic he would have to give up his position in the military. Colonel Caamaño, currently serving as military attaché in the Dominican Embassy in London, has said in turn that he would continue in the military.

"6. Workers and employees of the National District staged a 'hunger march' on the National Palace at 10.30 a.m. of 5 April demanding payment of their wages for the month of March and the dismissal of Mayor Luperon Flores. A workers' delegation was received by Minister Without Portfolio Fidel Mendez Nuñez and Minister for Finance Enrique Tadrique Tarazona. The Ministers promised the workers that the Government would effect payment of back wages between 12 and 15 April. There were no disturbances.

"7. In order to exchange impressions concerning the forthcoming elections, members of the OAS technical assistance mission on elections met with members of the Central Electoral Board on 23 March and 5 April, and the OAS mission was informed of the possible elimination of the electoral card, in the place of which the personal identity card would be used. The OAS mission met the Provisional President of the Republic on Thursday, 7 April. On 8 April the President signed Act No. 178 under which the electoral card is not to be used in the 1 June elections. At the invitation of the Central Electoral Board, the mission will soon travel inland to interview provincial officials of the Board. A member of the Board will accompany the OAS mission.

"8. In accordance with repeated statements by the Minister of the Interior and Police and the Chief of the National Police, the National Police has intensified its activities with a view to uncovering the illegal possession of fire-arms by individuals in order to ensure the better maintenance of law and order and to create a favourable climate for the 1 June elections and the smoother functioning of the political campaign now in progress. Through the action being taken by the National Police a number of stores of smuggled rifles were discovered and these were shown to representatives of the Press on 4 April. A number of persons have been detained as a result of the discoveries.

"9. In connexion with the commemoration of the battle of 30 March 1844, parades organized by the Federation of Dominican Women were held in a number of localities. No breaches of law and order were reported.

"10. On 30 March the Provisional President travelled to Santiago de los Caballeros accompanied by the Minister for the Armed Forces and other officials, and from there the President and his company proceeded to the north and north-west of the country after visiting the city of Barahona on 1 April.

"11. The Autonomous University of Santo Domingo published a list of ninety-two new professors of the University faculty. Among the newly appointed professors is Dr. Jottin Cury, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the 'Constitutionalist' Government of Colonel Caamaño, and Alberto Malagon Diaz, manager of the newspaper Patria, founded during the past civil strife. The new Principal of the Autonomous University also announced on 24 March that fifteen former members of the faculty had been reappointed to their posts.

"12. On Wednesday, 6 April, the strike affecting the sugar mill CAEI was brought to an end when the workers agreed to return to work after reaching an agreement with the management. The strike began on 16 March when the longshoremen of Haina refused to handle granulated sugar from the mill. Both management and the workers agreed to accept the decision of the arbitration commission, which will determine the number of days not worked for which the workers should be paid.

"13. On 5 April a sixteen-year-old youngster, Manuel A. de la Rosa, was killed and twelve-year-old Victor Sanchez was wounded and died on 8 April. The incident occurred when Sergeant-Major Juan de Dios Campusano Oviedo of the National Police used his regulation weapon on being attacked by a group of civilians who had been holding a meeting in the city of San Juan de la Maguana calling for the legalization of the 14th of June movement. This is according to information given to the Press on 7 April by National Police Headquarters. Since the period covered by the last report, all political parties have been conducting their political campaigns in an atmosphere of order and calm. The Provisional Government has taken great pains to ensure the maintenance of law and order throughout the electoral campaign period and to guarantee the safety of candidates. The Provisional Government has also launched a vigorous drive to secure the largest possible participation of voters in the forthcoming elections.

"For the Ad Hoc Committee

Ellsworth Bunker  
Representative of the United States  
of America"

Accept, etc.

William SANDERS  
Assistant Secretary General  
Organization of American States

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