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CABLE DATED 9 JANUARY 1966 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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 following cable, No. 950 of today's date, from the Ad Hoc Committee addressed to the President of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation:

"No. 950

"Mr. Guillermo Sevilla Sacasa
President, Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

"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 latest events in the Dominican Republic, which have disturbed the law and order recently established following the agreement of the Provisional Government to the workers' demands for Christmas bonuses.

"After the situation created by the workers' demands for Christmas bonuses had been dealt with, the deplorable incident of 19 December 1965 occurred at the Hotel Matúm at Santiago de los Caballeros, taking its tragic toll of dead and wounded both among the members of the so-called 'Constitutionalist Army' and among the regular Dominican Armed Forces which took part in the event.

"On the occasion of this incident at the Hotel Matúm, the Provisional President, Héctor García Godoy, appointed a Committee consisting of three members of the Cabinet, as he duly informed this Committee, to make an exhaustive investigation of what took place at the above-mentioned Hotel Matúm. The Committee appointed by the Provisional President submitted a full report to him and, after studying it, Mr. Héctor García Godoy addressed the public on the evening of 3 January 1966 and appealed to the Dominican people for concord and mutual understanding. The Provisional President said that no particular sector of the Dominican people could be blamed and that the responsibility for such deplorable events was shared equally by all.

"In his address the Provisional President announced that a group of officers, including members of the regular Armed Forces and of the so-called

'Constitutionalist Army', would have to leave the country for special missions and diplomatic posts abroad. The fact that in his speech of 3 January the Provisional President did not accuse any of the elements which participated in the tragic events of 19 December gave rise to protests from various political groups in the country and from the so-called 'Constitutionalists' who, in Press statements, said that they withdrew all their support from the Provisional Government and appealed to the Dominican people to join in a campaign of passive resistance to that Government.

"The list of the officers sent abroad was not made public until 6 January - three days after President García Godoy had made his speech. On that date, the Provisional President issued decrees appointing twelve officers military attachés at Dominican embassies abroad and dispatching twenty-two officers to Israel on a study tour. Among the officers sent abroad were the Minister of the Armed Forces, Commodore Francisco J. Rivera Caminero, the Chief of Staff of the National Army, General Jacinto Martínez Arana, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Juan de los Santos Cespedes, and nine officers who participated in the recent conflict on the constitutionalist side, including Colonels Francisco A. Caamaño Deñó and Ramón Montes Arache. The President appointed Captain Emilio Jiménez to replace Commodore Rivera Caminero, Colonel Enrique Pérez y Pérez as the new Chief of Staff of the National Army, Colonel Beauchamps Javier as the new Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Captain Francisco Amiana Castillo as the new Chief of Staff of the Navy. Mr. García Godoy informed the Committee that he was making the changes and new appointments in order to put an end to the tension existing in the country as a result of the hostility between the two groups of military personnel. The President indicated that this measure would pave the way for free elections in accordance with the provisions of the Institutional Act.

"As a reaction against the decrees transferring the senior officers, the Dominican Armed Forces in the city of Santo Domingo, on the pretext of maintaining law and order, have occupied various public premises including the studios of Radio Santo Domingo and the telecommunications building. In addition, there have been some popular demonstrations and organized disturbances in the centre of the city of Santo Domingo, which so far are not serious although the presence of troops of the Inter-American Peace Force was necessary as a precautionary measure.

"In view of the situation, the Provisional President, Mr. Héctor García Godoy, this morning formally requested this Ad Hoc Committee to order the Inter-American Peace Force to take over without delay the plant and studios of Radio-Televisión Santo Domingo, so that the Government could have the normal use of them for its regular programmes. At the same time, the Provisional President asked the Ad Hoc Committee for a special patrol of the Inter-American Peace Force to be posted near the National Palace because of the attitude adopted by the above-mentioned sector of the Dominican Armed Forces.

"The Ad Hoc Committee has transmitted the letters from the Provisional President to the Commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, requesting the

co-operation of the Force in responding to the requests mentioned in those communications. The Ad Hoc Committee is continuing its efforts with the Provisional President to maintain law and order and to facilitate the implementation of the decrees issued yesterday.

"In order that the public may be clear about its position, the Ad Hoc Committee has issued a statement in which it unequivocally expresses full support for the Provisional President, Mr. Héctor García Godoy, and his Government and also states that any action designed to overthrow that Government will be considered by this Committee as open defiance of the efforts being made by the Organization of American States to help the Dominican people to rebuild their democratic institutions and restore peace throughout the country.

"The text of the statement is as follows:

'Statement by the Ad Hoc Committee

"The Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics has been informed of a series of cases in which the Committee's position concerning recent events in the Dominican Republic has been misrepresented. Once more, the Committee wishes to make it quite clear that the Provisional President, Mr. Héctor García Godoy, and his Government enjoy the full support and co-operation of this Committee in the execution of their mandate in accordance with the Institutional Act. The decision of the Provisional President to make certain changes and transfers in the Dominican Armed Forces is in conformity with the powers conferred upon him by the Institutional Act. We are confident that the officers concerned will comply with the orders given, in view of the obligation of the armed forces to obey the civil authority as laid down in the Institutional Act.

"This Committee is fully convinced that all Dominican citizens of goodwill, both civilians and military personnel, are ready to make the sacrifices which are necessary to ensure that the Provisional Government carries out its mandate successfully. The Organization of American States (OAS) will continue to offer its full support and assistance to the Provisional Government and any action designed to overthrow or undermine

the Government will be considered by this Committee as open defiance of the efforts being made by OAS to help the Dominican people to rebuild their democratic institutions and restore peace throughout the country.

'Limar PENNA MARINHO
Special Representative of Brazil

'Ramón de CLAIRMONT DUEÑAS
Special Representative of El Salvador

'Ellsworth BUNKER
Special Representative of the United States'"

Accept, Sir, etc.

José A. MORA
Secretary General
Organization of American States

