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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE  
PAN AMERICAN UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In the absence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, I have the honour to transmit to you, in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations and for the information of the Security Council, copies in Spanish of document 436 containing the text of a report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, addressed on 23 March 1966 to the President of the Meeting.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) Luis R. BETANCES  
Chargé d'Affaires of the Pan American Union  
Organization of American States

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

23 March 1966

Sir,

The Ad Hoc Committee has the honour to inform the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the situation prevailing in the Dominican Republic since the date of its last report, sent on 14 March.

In a televised press conference on the night of 16 March, the Provisional President declared that not even the withdrawal of any political party would prevent the holding of the elections scheduled for 1 June. While he admitted that the climate for the elections was not perfect, he declared himself highly satisfied with the progress made and the improvement achieved with regard to the creation of a favourable climate for the holding of the elections. Dr. García-Godoy said that there were many political groups that were carrying on an active campaign throughout the country and that "they are conducting it in the normal way". Asked about the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force from the country, the Provisional President replied that "as you know, the presence of the Inter-American Peace Force in the Dominican Republic is in response to a resolution adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Consultation of the Organization of American States. In accordance with the text of that resolution, it lies with that Meeting to determine the date and the manner of the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force.

"Ever since the establishment of the Provisional Government, we have been trying to discover how the text of that resolution could be changed in order to give the Dominican Republic the power to decide when and how the troops should withdraw from here.

"In the soundings that we have made and the conversations we have had, we have not really thought that we could rely upon the necessary majority to achieve a change in the resolution along the lines we should like. Nevertheless, I think that the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force from the Dominican Republic

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

will depend mainly on the conditions in the country, that is to say, on the conditions that we can bring about to enable us to ask for its withdrawal.

"We can achieve a certain stability and we can create a situation in which we can say that we do not need the Inter-American Peace Force in the country. We can rely upon our own efforts to deal with any contingency that may arise within or outside the country.

"I am the first to think that the ideal thing would be to have no IPF here on the date of the elections. But even if it is here, I think that we shall be able to hold honest and free elections. But I do think that when the Constitutional Government is established the IPF should not be in the country."

Despite the optimistic remarks of the Provisional President, Mr. Rafael Bonnelly, the leading figure in the Movement of National Integration, said that "The fact that key positions in the Public Administration are in the hands of political leaders is an obstacle to the holding of the forthcoming elections". Mr. Bonnelly did not mention the names of the political leaders.

Nevertheless, nearly all the political parties have been very active since the beginning of the period of the electoral campaign. Mr. Bonnelly, Mr. Joaquín Balaguer of the Reform Party, Mr. Horacio Ornes of the Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard, Mr. Antonio Rosario of the Social-Christian Revolutionary Party and members of the Dominican Revolutionary Party have been carrying on an active campaign throughout the country, including the capital. Professor Juan Bosch, President of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, announced over the radio on 18 March that the participation or abstention of the DRP in the forthcoming elections would be decided by the National Assembly of the Party, which is to be held on 9 and 10 April.

Meanwhile, other political personalities have been exploring the possibility of creating a "fourth position" in order to present another candidate for the Presidency of the Republic.

Both the National Police and the Armed Forces have reiterated, in repeated press communiqués, that there must be the most absolute impartiality during the electoral campaign.

On 15 March the Central Electoral Board issued a proclamation setting 1 June 1966 as the date of the elections for the President and Vice-President, the

Congress and the municipal offices. The President and the Vice-President, twenty-seven senators and twenty-seven alternates, seventy-four deputies and seventy-four alternates will be elected for a period of four years, while seventy-seven mayors and 417 aldermen will be elected for a period of two years. Those elected will take office on 1 July 1966. All the candidates of the recognized political parties must be presented before 20 April 1966.

The Central Electoral Board has not yet reached a decision on the application of the "14th of June Revolutionary Movement" to be recognized as a political party. The Movement was declared illegal by Act No. 77 of December 1963. The Board was of the opinion that it was not competent to determine whether this party is legal and referred the application to the Supreme Court for a ruling.

On 16 March 1966, a small political demonstration took place on the occasion of "Viet-Nam Solidarity Week", which was sponsored by communist organizations in the Republic. Most of the participants were pupils of primary and secondary schools, which prompted the Press of the National District to criticize, in its publications, the fact that students were being used in political demonstrations.

The National Police has intensified its efforts to maintain law and order and to ensure the protection of the public. For this purpose, greater efforts are being made to trace weapons that may be in the possession of members of the public.

The Principal of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo requested the Provisional President, in a letter addressed to the latter on 17 March, to issue an order forbidding military vehicles of the Inter-American Peace Force (IPF) to circulate in the neighbourhood of the University in order to avoid incidents such as that which occurred on 12 March and which we duly reported to the Tenth Meeting of Consultation. The IPF, in co-operation with the Provisional Government, is taking the necessary action to prevent similar unintentional incidents. Notices in three languages are being posted for the purpose of clearly identifying the university boundaries.

So far as economic activities are concerned, we can report that the situation has distinctly improved since the date on which the general strike ended in mid-February. The eleven mills of the Dominican Sugar Corporation broke all the output records since 1962 by producing 38,000 tons of milled sugar in twenty-four hours. Daily activity in the port of Santo Domingo has also been great. Sixteen

merchant vessels are due to dock there in the next few days. The dispute between two longshoremen's unions was finally settled, and the rather extensive strike affecting the Central La Romana ended with the resultant resumption of the mill's activities on 21 March after several months' inactivity. One of the stumbling blocks in labour relations is the continuing refusal by the longshoremen of Haina to handle granulated sugar from the Corporación Anónima de Explotaciones Industriales (CAEI, Casa Vicini). The CAEI workers have asked the President to help them in solving the problem.

During the period covered by this report, the Ad Hoc Committee has discussed the role to be played by OAS in the elections in separate talks held with the Provisional President, Professor Bosch, Mr. Balaguer, Mr. Bonnelly and Mr. Rosario. The OAS Technical Assistance Commission on elections returned to the Dominican Republic at the invitation of the Provisional President on 22 March in order to co-operate in the election proceedings, as provided in article 51 of the Institutional Act. The Commission's arrival coincided with the Central Electoral Board's apparent misinterpretation of the Technical Assistance Commission's role in the elections. In this connexion, the Ad Hoc Committee has issued statements to the Press. The document annexed hereto contains the text of those statements.

On 21 March, the Provisional President announced his decision to reincorporate in the regular armed forces those former Constitutionalist officers and men who are still in the Republic and stated at the same time that many of them had been transferred abroad to diplomatic posts or for military training.

Ad Hoc Committee

Ilmar Penna MARINHO  
Special Representative of Brazil

Ellsworth BUNKER  
Special Representative of the United States

PRESS RELEASE

With reference to certain reports that have recently appeared in the local Press concerning an alleged disagreement between the Central Electoral Board and representatives of OAS, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker stated today that the Ad Hoc Committee and other OAS bodies are fully aware of the fact that the supreme and exclusive authority for conducting the elections in the Dominican Republic lies with the Central Electoral Board, as provided in article 49 of the Institutional Act.

Ambassador Bunker also pointed out that, so far as the elections are concerned, article 51 of the Institutional Act provides that "the Provisional Government shall request the co-operation of the Organization of American States in the preparation and holding of these elections". The Provisional Government therefore requested the Secretary General of OAS to send a Technical Assistance Commission on elections to the Dominican Republic. At the present time several members of this Commission are in the Republic and remain at the disposal of the Central Electoral Board for whatever consultations the Board may deem desirable.

Ambassador Bunker added that OAS is making the necessary preparations in order to respond to an invitation from the Provisional Government to the effect that OAS should send observers to witness the voting on election day. The activities of these observers will be subject to the regulations laid down by the Central Electoral Board, as they were in 1962 when an OAS team had occasion to observe whether those elections were properly conducted and free.

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