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CABLE DATED 27 MAY 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. 1074, dated 20 May 1966, sent by the Ad Hoc Committee to the Chairman of the Tenth Meeting of Consultation.

"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 12 April 1966, the date of our last report.

"Now that the candidatures for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic have been announced, the most important developments are those relating to the electoral campaigns of three groups of candidates:

"1. Professor Juan Bosch and Antonio Silvestre Guzmán, the candidates of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, the Social-Christian Revolutionary Party and the 14th of June Movement, the last of which has been rejected by candidate Professor Bosch.

"2. Rafael Bonnelly and Tabaro Alvarez Pereyra, the candidates of the National Integration Movement, which is composed of the following parties: Evolutionist Liberal, Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard, Civic Union, Revolutionary Action and Nationalist Revolutionary Democratic.

"3. Dr. Joaquín Balaguer and Francisco Augusto Lora, the candidates of the Reform Party, the Christian Democratic Party and the Christian Democratic Progressive Party.

"In his statement of 13 April Provisional President Dr. Héctor García Godoy asserted that coups d'etat are a thing of the past in the Dominican Republic, that the Government emerging from the forthcoming elections will remain in power for its appointed four-year term, and that the military will respect the will of the people. These assertions by the Provisional President were confirmed on the same date by the Minister of the Armed Forces, Major General Enrique Pérez y Pérez, who said, 'The armed forces will respect the will of the people and will accept the Government emerging from the forthcoming elections.'

"The President stated further that the June elections 'will be completely honest' and that 'the great majority of the people want elections and see in them the only way of solving the national problem'. Referring to those in whose interest it would be that elections should not take place, he said, 'There are groups which would like to keep the waters turbulent, but that will not present any problem.'

"The Minister of the Armed Forces said that during the elections the armed forces will be under the command of the Central Electoral Board.

"On 13 April the Central Electoral Board allowed the political parties a postponement until 25 April for the presentation of their candidates for elective office.

"On 15 April the Central Electoral Board reorganized twenty-three electoral boards in the interior of the country. According to the Minister of the Interior and Police, 'Electoral activities throughout the Republic are proceeding with greater normalcy than was expected.' He added that 'No incident has been reported from the interior of the Republic which might interfere with the electoral campaign being waged by the political parties, and both the armed forces and the National Police are clearly maintaining a non-political position.'

"On 17 April the Reform Party elected Dr. Joaquín Balaguer by acclamation and Francisco Augusto Lora by secret vote to be its candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency respectively.

"On the same date the Social-Christian Revolutionary Party and the 14th of June Revolutionary Movement announced their support of the candidatures of Professor Juan Bosch and Silvestre Antonio Guzmán. The decision of the 14th of June Movement to support the candidates of the DRP was made conditionally at a rally in the Enriquillo Park. On the following day Professor Bosch rejected the decision of the 14th of June Movement to support his candidature and took the position that none of the votes of that political organization could be counted in his favour if elections were held. 'If we agree to be the candidates of the 14th of June Movement, another party, not the DRP, will win the election. If we refuse, violent attacks by some segments of the 14th of June Movement and other leftist parties will ensue.' In the same address, Professor Bosch accepted the support of the Social-Christian Revolutionary Party.

"At the convention held by the Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard a decision was taken to support the candidatures of Bonnelly and Alvarez Pereyra.

"On Tuesday, 19 April, Professor Juan Bosch denounced what he called 'a state of terror' which was 'increasing daily' in the Province of Barahona, adding that 'the place has become an inferno for the supporters of the DRP' and that all efforts to put an end to the situation have been in vain. He made the same denunciation with regard to other parts of the interior of the country, accusing the armed forces of committing the outrages.

"Replying to Professor Bosch's statements, the Minister of the Armed Forces said that a thorough investigation has been ordered, that all the complaints submitted are being looked into and that where they have proved to be justified the members of the armed forces concerned, whether enlisted men or officers, have been transferred.

"On Thursday, 21 April, Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, candidate of the Reform Party, complained that 'Members of the Board of Directors of the Dominican Sugar Corporation (DSC) are using their positions for the exclusive benefit of one or several political parties.'

"Provisional President Dr. Héctor García Godoy acknowledged having received information to the effect that vehicles belonging to State enterprises are being used for political purposes. In a circular addressed to all Ministries, Departments and banking and autonomous institutions of the Government, he prohibited the use of vehicles for political purposes, a prohibition which includes the vehicles of the armed forces. He also indicated that the vehicles of the armed forces and the autonomous institutions would be considered to be under the orders of the Central Electoral Board if the latter deemed it necessary. Referring to rumours that on 24 April events would occur which might interrupt the electoral process, the Provisional President said: 'I am convinced that what the great majority of the Dominican people want is to live in peace and to settle the Dominican problem in peace.... We have ahead of us elections which will be free, which will be honest, and this is the path which we Dominicans must follow.... We are not going to solve our country's problem by violence and agitation.... We shall not allow the electoral climate prevailing until now to be disrupted.'

"On Sunday, 24 April, the anniversary of the revolution which proclaimed the restoration of the Constitution of 1963, about 2,000 Dominicans took part in a public demonstration organized to celebrate the occasion. There were no disturbances or acts of violence. On 27 April Provisional President Dr. Héctor García Godoy, appearing on a broadcast of the Dominican Radio and Television, said that he was confident that the civic spirit of the Dominicans would enable him to turn over the reins of Government to a constitutional President with sovereignty fully restored. On that same occasion the Vice-President of the Republic said 'Thanks to the new awareness of the civil and military authorities, there exists in the country a climate propitious for the holding of free and honest elections.' He also expressed the view that the Inter-American Peace Force should no longer be responsible for maintaining public order, since the National Police is showing that it is capable of doing so.

"On the morning of Thursday, 28 April, the anniversary of the landing of United States Marines, the United States Embassy was picketed. Hundreds of young people marched through the streets of the city carrying banners and flags inscribed with anti-United States slogans. These demonstrations produced no major incidents with the exception of what happened in

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Villa Duarte, where six persons were injured when a group of demonstrators burned a United States flag. The blame for this incident was placed on United States soldiers, who opened fire when they were attacked with stones and firearms.

"On that same date, 23 April, General Pérez y Pérez, Minister of the Armed Forces, said that the military would respect the results of the elections 'provided that the new régime does not attempt to do away with the armed forces, in accordance with the principle advocated by certain régimes'. He added that he was not referring 'to any political party or candidate in particular'. He made these remarks in order to rectify statements appearing in The New York Times.

"In response to requests from the Provisional Government, the Inter-American Peace Force has begun to transfer its troops to points outside the city, to be replaced by members of the Dominican armed forces and the National Police. The Information Office of the IPF issued the following statement on 28 May [sic]: 'In a process of mutual and continuous co-operation with the Provisional Government of the Dominican Republic, the positions of the IPF have been turned over to the National Police and the armed forces.' The only IPF troops remaining in the city are those of a small contingent near the 27th of February Camp. On 2 May General Pérez y Pérez, Minister of the Armed Forces, restated the non-political position of the armed forces, saying that it transcended all interests. 'We are not supporting any political party', he said, 'our functions are determined by the laws governing the country'.

"At a press conference on 4 May, Provisional President Dr. Héctor García Godoy, referring to complaints of certain politicians that he had remained silent with regard to the outbreak of violence in the current electoral campaign, said, 'The obligation of the Provisional Government to create a climate propitious for the holding of the elections has been and will continue to be met... Unfortunately, there have been incidents which reveal misguided partisan zeal.' He then specified that it is 'the obligation of the leaders of the political parties to calm these elements and give guidance to their followers with respect to the manner in which they should conduct themselves in holding public demonstrations if we are to have orderly and peaceful elections on 1 June'.

"On 6 May the Provisional Government issued a decree officially establishing the Electoral Police, an organ of the National Police, which will be responsible for protecting political leaders and will exercise other functions in connexion with the elections of 1 June. The members of the Electoral Police will be given a short course in public relations and electoral laws.

"During the first two weeks of May the speeches of the presidential candidates are making reference in particular to denunciations of irregularities which they attribute to political forces opposing their respective candidatures, and they are asking the Provisional Government to take note of these complaints.

"On 9 May Dr. García Godoy restated the non-political position of his régime and gave assurances that no member of the Public Administration had been chosen on the ground of affiliation with any political party. On 10 May the Central Electoral Board announced that the votes of the Revolutionary Movement of 14 June for provincial and municipal candidates could not be counted as votes for the slate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party. This announcement was made by the Central Board in reply to a letter from the 14th of June Movement.

"With a view to forestalling possible disturbances on the day of the elections, the Central Electoral Board announced that on 1 June appropriate measures would be taken at all radio stations to prevent the broadcasting of false political reports which might affect the voting. The Board also announced the installation of a radio and computer set-up by means of which the votes could be counted and the winner announced within twenty-four hours after the polling places closed. In addition, it decided upon security measures to protect the polling places and the persons in charge of them. A thorough revision and selection of these measures was subsequently made.

"The Board rejected the request of the DRP to increase the number of polling places by 1,600, noting that the 3,405 already established (each of which will serve a maximum of 500 persons) exceed the number used in 1962 by sixty-seven.

"Referring to the tour by Dominican Ambassador Ambrosio Alvarez Aybar in his capacity as a special envoy to the American countries which are members of the OAS, the Provisional President stated the following in a press conference held on 12 May: 'I have said publicly, on several occasions, that the problem of the presence of the Inter-American Peace Force in the Dominican Republic should be solved before 1 July and that it is my intention to hand over the reins of Government to a constitutional President with the country's sovereignty fully restored.... There is nothing secret about my sending a personal representative to hold conversations with the Heads of State of countries which are members of the OAS; I assure you that for me it is a matter of pride that these steps are being taken.'

"With reference to this same subject, and in reply to a questionnaire submitted by one of the newspapers of this city, a number of political leaders have expressed their opposition to the continued presence of the Inter-American Peace Force in the Dominican Republic.

"On 17 May Professor Juan Bosch, presidential candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, said that the Executive Committee of his

party had resolved to give the Provisional Government forty-eight hours to put an end to the aggressions being committed against the party's sympathizers and that if the situation was not corrected by that time the DRP would withdraw from the electoral campaign.

"Dr. Balaguer, candidate of the Reform Party, described Professor Bosch's statement as a political tactic.

"On 18 May the Provisional President, in a radio and television broadcast, confirmed formal guarantees of freedom to the political parties in the current electoral campaign and made a new and solemn promise that that freedom would be respected. He also announced his decision to confine the armed forces to their barracks from 19 May until the date of the election. In addition, he announced the appointment of a commission composed of one representative chosen by each of the presidential candidates, one member of the Electoral Board and one special representative of the President of the Republic to investigate denunciations and complaints made by the political parties, giving assurances that this Committee would enjoy all necessary guarantees.

"During the last few days, preparations have been completed for receiving the observers invited by the OAS to witness the elections. The Press has been publishing lists of observers as soon as their acceptances have been received. The Human Rights Commission has announced that all its members will have arrived by 27 May and the Ad Hoc Committee announced that the contingent of the Inter-American Peace Force would be confined to its barracks on election day.

"In accordance with the information available to the Ad Hoc Committee, the electoral climate seems to be satisfactory. In the current circumstances, and considering the background of events in the Dominican Republic, the establishment of this climate is a most praiseworthy achievement. In the heat of the electoral campaign incidents between the principal parties have, it is true, occurred. Incidents of this kind, which are not unexpected, will not affect the satisfactory climate in which the elections are to be held on 1 June."

Accept, etc.

José A. MORA
Secretary General
Organization of American States
