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

1. The following information regarding recent developments in the Dominican Republic has been received from the office of my Representative there, Mr. José Antonio Mayobre.
2. During the last three weeks, the city of Santo Domingo has been gradually returning to normalcy. Commercial banks have reopened and general economic activity has steadily increased. Commercial radio stations have resumed normal broadcasts and local newspapers are again being published. The night curfew in the city has been lifted. The bulk of the Inter-American Peace Force has been withdrawn from the city together with tanks and many heavy weapons, with some 600 troops remaining there. The National Police are gradually taking over responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the city. Meanwhile, slow but definite progress is being made in the reintegration of the former "constitutionalist" forces with the Dominican armed forces. Material conditions have improved in the "27 February camp" where former "constitutionalist" troops are stationed. On the matter of disarmament of civilians and recovery of weapons, the Provisional Government of President Héctor García Godoy has initiated a plan whereby civilians turning in arms are paid substantial sums. This plan seems to be making some headway.
3. The Provisional Government is pursuing its efforts to overcome problems encountered in ensuring the process of law, a task which has been complicated by difficulties between the civilian authorities and the armed forces and police of the Dominican Republic. Recently, there has been some improvement in that situation. The Provisional Government continues its efforts to safeguard human rights and to restore public confidence.

4. The generally improving atmosphere was marred recently by rumours and reports of an impending coup d'état by elements of the extreme right. By the middle of November, the political situation was causing general concern among leaders of major political parties and other important personalities. On 12 November, representatives of several political parties, including Partido Reformista and Partido Revolucionario Dominicano, pledged in a public document to refrain for a period of four months from political activities likely to cause disturbances, and generally to contribute to the strengthening of peace and calm in the country, in anticipation of the general elections provided for by the Institutional Act. On 20 November, President Godoy affirmed in a Press statement that some "discredited political elements" were plotting against his Government.

5. On 21 November, the situation became very tense as reports circulated that a coup d'état was imminent and was to take place in several cities simultaneously. In a statement to the Press in Santo Domingo on that day, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, a member of the OAS Ad Hoc Committee, stated that the Provisional Government had the complete support of the OAS and that a coup d'état against it would be a blow to the OAS and to its member Governments. During the afternoon, contingents of the IAPF arrived at Barahona and Santiago and were deployed near the airports and other strategic sites.

6. During the night of 21-22 November, an unsuccessful coup d'état was attempted in Santiago. It was rapidly suppressed by the police and by elements of the Dominican armed forces. The radio station "Tamboril" near Santiago was occupied at dawn by armed elements, who began broadcasting a revolutionary proclamation on behalf of a "new government" headed by Dr. Alcibiades Espinoza, former Minister of Health in the Government overthrown on 24 April 1965, and a prominent member of the Unión Cívica Nacional. Other armed groups were observed in the approaches to Santiago and at Barahona, Higüey and Jarabacoa. However, there were no armed clashes and the police and armed forces were in control of the situation within a very short time. About forty persons, including Dr. Espinoza, have been taken into custody, most of them belonging to two extreme-right parties, the Unión Cívica Nacional and Vanguardia Revolucionaria Dominicana. The office of my Representative was officially informed that the investigations had not been concluded and that several other persons were likely to be taken into custody.

7. I am informed that during these developments Santo Domingo and the interior of the country remained calm.

