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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. My Representative in the Dominican Republic, Mr. José Antonio Mayobre, has submitted to me the following information on the situation in the Dominican Republic during the period from 17 August 1965, the date of my last report (S/6615), to 2 September 1965.

Political developments

2. On 30 August, General Antonio Imbert announced through the television and radio network the resignation of the "Government of National Reconstruction", including himself, members of the "Junta" and ministers. Immediately after his announcement, members of his Cabinet signed a document confirming their resignation.
3. On 31 August, Colonel Francisco Caamaño and the group of negotiators of the "Constitutional Government" signed with the OAS Ad Hoc Committee the Institutional Act and the Reconciliation Act as amended (see S/6530, para. 17, and S/6615, para. 4). Shortly thereafter, a declaration was appended to the Reconciliation Act by the Commanders of the Armed Forces and the National Police of the Dominican Republic on the side of the "Government of National Reconstruction". This declaration pledged the support and acceptance by the Armed Forces and the National Police of the Reconciliation Act and the Institutional Act and their support for Dr. Hector Garcia Godoy as President of the proposed provisional government.

Question of Human Rights

4. On 31 August, the "Constitutional Government" liberated 108 political prisoners from the Ozama Fortress prison in Ciudad Nueva in the presence of the OAS Human Rights Commission and my Representative. The prisoners consisted of 14 National Police Officers, one Air Force Officer and 93 former policemen, all of them held since last April. Following this action, the "Constitutional Government" reported that no more political prisoners were being held by them.

5. On 1 September, a group of prisoners consisting of 16 Army officers and 10 Air Force officers was released by the "Government of National Reconstruction" from La Victoria Penitentiary to the OAS Human Rights Commission in the presence of my Representative. The next day, a further group of 12 officers held at La Victoria was liberated.

Maintenance of the Cease-Fire

6. During the period under review, there were two serious firing incidents. The first incident occurred on the night of 28/29 August and the second on the following night.

(a) Firing incident during the night of 28/29 August

7. At 2315 hours local time on the night of 28/29 August, a considerable amount of firing occurred in the area of the Chilean Embassy at Nicolas Pensón Street on the edge of the International Security Zone. The Embassy was struck by approximately 16 rounds of small arms fire, while houses nearby were struck by heavy and light machine-gun fire. Two rifle grenades also landed on Nicolas Pensón Street between the Caamaño and IAPF positions and broke the high-tension cables.

8. The area was visited by members of my Representative's staff who inspected the damage caused by the firing and questioned witnesses. Among the evidence found were the tailfins of two freshly fired rifle grenades and the tailfin of an unprimed and unexploded rifle grenade to which was still attached a red safety tag in Portuguese.

9. The firing was reported at 0100 hours to the IAPF headquarters by a member of my Representative's staff who was informed by the Commander of the IAPF that he was aware that his troops had opened fire, and that they had done this because they were being fired upon. Colonel Caamaño stated that his troops had fired in the air when they had first been fired on. No casualties were reported.

10. From the available evidence, my Representative concludes that high-angle long-range machine-gun tracer fire was directed on the Caamaño sector by persons unknown firing from a position in an area controlled by the Imbert forces, some 3,000 yards to the north-east of Ciudad Nueva, that the Caamaño forces and the IAPF troops both opened fire against each other, and that three rifle grenades were fired from a range of approximately 500 yards by persons unknown from a position directly north of Ciudad Nueva onto the area between the Caamaño positions and the IAPF positions.

11. These conclusions were reported to the IAFP Commander and to Colonel Casamaño. The IAFP Commander stated categorically that although rifle grenades of the type fired and found unprimed and unexploded are held by IAFP forces, they were not used to return fire and quite definitely were not fired by IAFP troops during the night of 28/29 August.

(b) Firing incident on night of 29/30 August

12. At 2155 hours on 29 August, my Representative received a call from the Casamaño headquarters informing him that Ciudad Nueva was under mortar fire and that an investigating group was being sent to the suspected impact area. My Representative appealed to the Casamaño headquarters to remain calm and not to reply to this fire. Further reports were received soon thereafter from the Casamaño headquarters that they were under heavy machine-gun, recoilless and rifle fire from the IAFP in the area of the National Palace. They also reported mortar fire from an unknown location. The Casamaño headquarters further reported a fire caused by mortar bombs in the San Carlos area and expressed hope that the IAFP would desist from firing in that direction while efforts were being made to put out the fire. My Representative immediately despatched a member of his staff to the IAFP headquarters and also contacted the members of the OAS Ad Hoc Committee, who informed him that they were proceeding to the IAFP headquarters.

13. My Representative's observer returned from the IAFP headquarters at 0100 hours on 30 August, having encountered considerable difficulty and danger in reaching the IAFP headquarters due to heavy firing. He had seen the Commander and staff of IAFP and had been informed by them that IAFP counter-mortar radar had located some positions in the area in the northern part of the city under control of the Imbert forces from which the mortar fire had originated. In all seven locations were pinpointed by the IAFP. They had further assured my Representative's observer that orders had been given for the troops of the IAFP to cease fire immediately.

14. Before the firing ceased at about midnight on 29/30 August, another four rounds of heavy mortar fire landed in Ciudad Nueva in the vicinity of the IAFP headquarters.

15. On the morning of 30 August, my Representative and his military staff carried out a thorough investigation of the firing incident of the preceding night. He established beyond doubt that the incident was touched off by the firing of mortars from the northern part of the city. A visit to two of the sites located by the IAPF counter-mortar radar confirmed that there had been considerable military activity by Imbert forces in those areas during the previous night, including movement of personnel and vehicles and heavy firing during the hours of darkness. Impact areas in San Carlos and along Avenida Pasteur north of Avenida Independencia, where about twenty rounds of medium and heavy mortar fell and hit many houses, were also visited. Examination of the impact areas showed clearly that the firing points were situated well north of the target area.
16. Following the first mortar explosions, exchanges of fire, consisting of small-arms interspersed with rifle grenades, bazookas and recoilless rifles, occurred between the IAPF and the Caamaño forces, mainly along the length of the eastern part of the International Security Zone. Examination of the impact areas indicated indiscriminate shooting by all concerned, causing casualties and serious damage to civilian property.
17. The casualties reported by the Caamaño forces were four killed and five wounded, about half of them caused by mortar fire and the remainder by small arms. The IAPF reported two soldiers slightly wounded.
18. All available evidence indicates that the heavy exchange of fire between the IAPF and the Caamaño forces began and continued as a direct result of mortar bombs which landed in Ciudad Nueva and which came from positions under control of the Imbert forces located in the northern part of the city.
19. Since 0015 hours 30 August, there have been no further firing incident.
