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REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The following information on a breach of the cease-fire which took place in Santo Domingo on 15 June 1965 has been received from my Representative in the Dominican Republic, Mr. José Antonio Mayobre.
2. On the morning of 15 June 1965, exchanges of fire began between armed elements under Colonel Francisco Caamaño and troops of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF). As soon as my Representative learned of the incident, he took action to contact the leaders of the parties involved with a view to ascertaining the facts of the situation and arranging a cessation of hostilities. Shortly after the shooting began my Representative contacted Colonel Caamaño's Headquarters and sent one of his military advisers there to observe the situation on the spot. He also tried to get in touch with General Hugo Panasco Alvim, Commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, and other OAS officials, but succeeded in doing so only at about 1130 hours. This delay was mainly due to the difficulties of communication prevailing in the city while the fighting was going on. There was, in particular, a sudden breakdown in electricity power and in communication facilities during the morning at Embajador Hotel where my Representative had established his Headquarters. Because of the fighting it was also often difficult to circulate in the street, and indeed, one of the United Nations cars was hit by machine-gun bullets although fortunately there were no casualties. In any event, my Representative had contacted both of the parties involved by late morning and remained in close touch with them since then.

3. Each of the two parties involved gave my Representative a different version of the origin and the nature of the firing incident.
4. According to Colonel Caamaño, firing started around 0830 hours from two United States machine-gun positions near the junctions of Duarte and Barahona streets and of Duarte and Jacinto de la Concha streets. After one woman had been killed and three children had been wounded, his forces had decided to return the fire. At about the same time, the United States troops around the electric power plant began to advance from their positions to the south and west, and machine-gun fire began to come from the mill across the Ozama River. Weapons used in the firing had included 105-millimetre recoilless, bazookas and machine-guns. Although he had ordered his men to stop all their fire, United States troops continued to fire and to advance into the south-east sector of the city. In the afternoon, at 1500 hours, the Caamaño sector was again fired upon with 120-millimetre mortars and 50-calibre machine-guns, apparently from the east side of the Ozama River. The Caamaño Headquarters was struck by one round of heavy weapon fire while other rounds fell nearby. Colonel Caamaño charged that United States troops had fired upon the hospital at Ozama fortress, which was flying the Red Cross flag, and upon one of his ambulances, while it was picking up wounded. He further alleged that a corvette of the Dominican Navy had placed itself at the entrance of Santo Domingo Harbour and had fired into the town and into the Customs House. As a result of this fire, the Customs House area was in flames.

5. According to General Alvim, units of IAPF in the Corridor area were fired upon from Caamaño positions to the south at 0815 hours. They did not react for twenty to twenty-five minutes, but after this period they returned the fire in self-defence. Observing that Caamaño forces were trying to manoeuvre around their positions, IAPF troops took action to defeat this objective. These actions continued until 1130 hours at which time the situation became quiet. At 1225 hours, Brazilian troops near the IAPF Headquarters were attacked by Caamaño units and were compelled to return the fire in self-defence. General Alvim indicated that he had authorized the extension of the area of his Force south of the corridor along the northern portions of Montecristi and Caracas streets since the area, he said, had been abandoned by Caamaño forces and its occupation was necessary to IAPF and its own security. The casualties included one Brazilian lieutenant and three United States soldiers wounded in action, and one civilian (a woman) killed in the Security Zone. General Alvim also stated that he had received reports indicating that armed civilians in the Caamaño sector were setting fire to customs warehouses on the waterfront. He assured my Representative that no IAPF units had fired from the eastern side of the Ozama River. In connexion with the meetings held with General Alvim on 15 June, the first of which was attended by General Inder J. Rikhye on behalf of my Representative, it may be noted that General Alvim began by asking General Rikhye whether the latter had come to see him as an "observer". General Rikhye replied that he had been sent by Mr. Mayobre under the Security Council mandate on the observance of the cease-fire.
6. Due, in considerable measure, to the difficulties referred to earlier in this report, my Representative has not been able to verify the versions given to him by the two parties. His assessment of the events, based on the information he had been able to gather, is that there was, as had occurred several times before, an exchange of fire between the Caamaño troops and the United States troops in the area of the checkpoint at the junction of the corridor at Jacinto de La Concha street. The exchange of fire continued until a United States soldier was wounded, which led to heavier retaliatory fire. In this connexion, my Representative recalled that, during all his meetings with IAPF and OAS officials, he had been repeatedly informed that, if its troops were fired at, IAPF would react to silence the opposition and, if

required, would launch counter-attacks in order to destroy such opposition. My Representative also pointed out that the situation in the city had been recently extremely tense because troops under General Antonio Imbert were known to have massed in large numbers in the general area north of the corridor and Colonel Caamaño's forces were apprehensive that they might be permitted to break through the corridor. He further noted that some armed civilian groups in the Caamaño zone might not be fully under Colonel Caamaño's control and responsive to his command.

7. On the evening of 15 June my Representative succeeded in obtaining from both parties their agreement to a cessation of hostilities as of 2030 hours.

8. However, after the cessation of hostilities came into force, my representative was informed by the Caamaño Headquarters that mortar fire had continued and that up to 0115 hours on 16 June, 54 mortar shells had been fired on its zone, probably originating from the Imbert forces located beyond the IAFP lines. My representative thereupon contacted the Chief of Staff of IAFP who promised him that he was going to investigate the matter personally.

9. I am awaiting confirmation from my Representative that the cease-fire is now being observed as appears to be the case.
