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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO: Amconsul SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATEDEPARTMENT OF STATE
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ANALYSIS BRANCH
JUL 31 1968

HANDLING INDICATOR

NAN
RSL
8/14/68
88 file

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

DATE: July 25, 1968

SUBJECT: Weekly Political Summary No. 3 (July 12-July 18, 1968)

REF :

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Introduction

Politically speaking, this week was relatively tranquil in Santo Domingo and in the rest of the country. President Balaguer, although continuing to work in his office, did not hold his usual Wednesday meeting with the Economic Development Commission because of what was termed a temporary illness. At week's end he was planning to continue his normal weekend activity of presiding over the inauguration of new public works projects in the interior. Early in the week the President, Vice-President Lora, other high civilian and military officials and the diplomatic corps attended the inauguration of the new National Police Academy in San Cristóbal where they heard Police Chief Braulio ALVAREZ Sánchez declare that the best policemen were not merely the most valiant but also the most qualified. In other government news this week, the National Congress met for the last time before the opening of a new session on August 16. In one of its last acts of the current session, the lower chamber named a special committee to study and report on the closing of the PRD radio program (Item 3).

While the PRD radio program remained off the air, another political party, the PQD, led by ex-General Wessin y Wessin, also

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ACTING DCM: M Taylor

Clearances:

POL:JCHaahr

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charged this week that its radio program had been closed by the government. The PQD said that if the government did not permit the return of Wessin to the Dominican Republic and the reopening of its program, the party would "summon President Balaguer before the Supreme Court of Justice and international organs."

Meanwhile, for lack of much newsworthy political material, the press, especially the anti-Haitian El Caribe, kept the issue of Dominican-Haitian relations on page one. By the end of the week the Foreign Ministry still had not commented on the apparent recall of the respective ambassadors from the two capitals (Item 1).

In other news, Rector AYBAR Nicolás called a University Claustro meeting for July 20 to discuss last month's armed clashes at UASD (Item 4). And, fallout from the MPD's open call for a "popular war" continued as police brought in an important haul of MPD literature and records. (Item 2).

Finally, in what may be only the first such reaction, El Caribe said editorially that it was incongruous that at the same time the United States was proposing to reduce its economic assistance to Latin American countries, it was planning to increase spending to construct "large ships to transport Northamerican troops to critical places in Latin America in the critical moment." (On July 18 both El Caribe and Listín printed a UPI dispatch by George Weeks reporting a Department of Defense request for \$1,400 million to build 30 ships to be stationed in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).

1. Recall of Ambassadors Marks Cooling of Haiti/DR Relations

In the wake of recent Dominican indignation over Duvalier's land claim (WPR #17) the return of Ambassador Fausto GUZMAN Cabrera to Santo Domingo this week for "consultations" was matched by a similar hasty recall to Port-au-Prince of Haitian Ambassador Clement VINCENT. Although Guzmán and the Foreign Office have remained silent, Haitian-baiting El Caribe claimed that Guzmán will not return to Port-au-Prince and that a chargé will be left there "indefinitely." (SD-3151)

Aside from answering a press query (concerning a possible break in relations) by stating that as Chief of State he was responsible for such a decision, President Balaguer had little to say this week regarding Haiti/DR relations. The PRD, however, lost no opportunity to use the issue to embarrass the Balaguer Administration, and exploited Dominicans' traditionally anti-Haitian prejudices by (a) a charge by Senator Secundino GIL Morales that Duvalier's land grab complaint was a "smoke-screen" used by both Presidents to obscure their own internal problems; (b) a call by Sen. CASIMIRO Castro for a break in relations with "the inhuman torturer" Duvalier (Casimiro did not miss the chance to add that both countries were governed by unpopular presidents); and (c) a later speech by Gil Morales, building on his earlier remarks, adding his opinion that the

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DR had in fact been "invaded" (albeit peacefully) by Haitians, and expressing the fear that such an "Haitian exodus" could be transformed into "armed action." (SD-3098 and SD-3151) (LOU)

Comment: Despite the reality of the nearly-universal Dominican fear and dislike of Haitians and the apparent recall of ambassadors, the Embassy believes the present "crisis" in Haiti/DR relations will subside. (SD-3151) (LOU)

2. MPD "Popular War" Threat Provokes Further Reaction

The MPD's unorthodox and sensational news conference of July 6 (WPR #17) continued to produce fallout this week, with (a) a critique by a group of self-styled "Marxists-Leninists within and without the MPD," who termed the July 6 statement precipitate and erroneous and -- instead of popular war now -- called for hard proselytizing work to develop the campesinos into the "embryo of a future popular army"; (b) a National Police communique charging continued MPD preparations for a "popular war" and naming several party leaders recently sent to the interior toward this end; and (c) impromptu press comments by Air Force Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Salvador LLUBERES Montas who, referring to the MPD's announced plans, said the Air Force would crush any threat to the peace and security of the nation, but added his doubts that such a threat would arise, since "the people ... will not support any armed movement".

Earlier this week, raiding police netted an important haul of MPD literature and records; these will probably be the sources of more intriguing PN communiqués in the near future. (LOU)

3. PRD Notes

The PRD radio program remained off the air for yet another week, while (a) Procurator General GOICO Morales promised a detailed study of the charges brought against the PRD by Posts and Telecommunications Director, Victor HIDALGO Justo (WPR #17); (b) PRD Press and Propaganda Secretary "Manny" ESPINAL spoke for the party in charging that the program had been judged in the same "despotic and anti-democratic" manner in which PRDers are deprived of their rights and liberties; (c) President Balaguer said that he would not order the reopening of the program, since to do so would constitute intervention in judicial affairs (he also reaffirmed earlier statements that the program closing should not be based on insults to the President of the Republic); (d) the Chamber of Deputies named a three-man commission to study the closing of the program, and its PRD member, Deputy Ambiorix DIAZ, characterized Hidalgo Justo's action as "unconstitutional"; and (e) the Senate rejected last week's motion (by the PRD's CASIMIRO Castro) aimed at reopening the program (WPR #17).

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PRD Senators GIL Morales and Casimiro Castro also made news this week by some richly demagogic, anti-Haitian oratory (Item 1); and at week's end, press readers were intrigued by recently arrived (from France and Spain) Deputy Barón SUERO's statement that Juan BOSCH plans to return to the DR soon, when he finishes his current literary efforts (Suero also denied last month's rumors that he had been sent to Bosch to urge him toward cooperation with the Balaguer Government -- WPR #15). (LOU)

Comment: A more reliable indication of Bosch's true intentions and attitudes will be afforded by Secretary General PEÑA Gómez, who reportedly is due back from his Bosch visit July 20. (LOU)

4. UASD Claustro to Meet

In response to a request signed by 90 professors, all members of the recently-formed Federation of University Professors of the UASD, Rector Aybar Nicolás called a meeting of the University Claustro for July 20. The Claustro will consider the "causes" of the current "University crisis" stemming from last month's armed clash between student groups and will discuss measures "necessary to preserve the institutionality" of the University.

On orders of Rector Aybar, all academic and administrative activities were suspended as of noon July 19 until after the Claustro meeting. Although the Rector gave no reason for his decision, El Nacional attributed it to rumors of possible new outbreaks of violence in connection with a FRAGUA-JC sponsored memorial celebration the afternoon of the 19th dedicated to the student killed in last month's incidents.

BRUC had earlier charged that members of FRAGUA and PACOREDO were arming themselves and intended to provoke new disorders to force the cancellation of the Claustro. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: A special investigating commission and the University Council have already spent a great deal of time discussing June's incidents. (WPR #17). All of the student political groups involved have rejected the disciplinary measures handed down by the Council. Former Rector Julio CASTAÑOS Espaillet told an Embassy officer this week that the situation at UASD was still somewhat tense and that as a result attendance of students and professors was only about 85 percent of normal. No matter what action, if any, the Claustro takes regarding past or future incidents at UASD, the situation there is likely to remain at best unstable for some time to come. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).


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