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TO : Amembassy MANAGUA

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FROM : Department of State

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SUBJECT : Biographic information on
Ambassador Luis Tejeda Alvarez

AIR ARMY NAVY OSD

REF : Your OM, January 9, 1969

USIA NSA CIA

The following information on Luis Ney Tejeda Alvarez, as requested in referenced OM, should not be made available to foreign nationals.

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

In December 1968 Luis Ney Tejeda, longtime controversial figure in the Dominican Republic, was appointed by President Balaguer as Ambassador to Nicaragua, just after Balaguer dissolved the Special Intelligence Service (SIS), sometimes called the Palace Intelligence Service, which Tejeda had headed. In May 1967 Tejeda had been designated inspector at the service of the President of the Republic, and this position apparently grew and became the nucleus of the SIS. In this capacity Tejeda acted as the intelligence advisor and coordinator for President Balaguer. The function of the SIS was to acquire information and perform other intelligence tasks as directed by the President; however, Tejeda's frequently irresponsible intelligence reports and covert political activities aroused presidential concern and public criticism. In the last few months of his tenure, Tejeda appeared to have taken several unauthorized political initiatives which brought him directly under constant attack from the press and opposition political quarters. This combination of detrimental factors probably contributed to Balaguer's decision to abolish the SIS and get Tejeda out of the country by assigning him to a foreign post.

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Tejeda has been a close ally, especially in suspicious, conspiratorial intrigues, of Col. Neit Nivar Seijas, commander of the First Brigade and military aide to the President. Nivar, however, purportedly approved of Tejeda's ouster as SIS head, possibly because he felt Tejeda's own political ambitions were growing to the point where he might be a potential rival instead of a longstanding personal friend and loyal follower. Tejeda was chief of the national police from August 1966 to March 1967. (It was rumored that Colonel Nivar engineered Tejeda's appointment.) When he took office he was considered an able officer with an excellent record, but his image was somewhat tarnished by his actions in events that followed. Shortly after his appointment to the national police, police credibility was damaged by a long series of inconsistent and sometimes contradictory statements on the conduct of a robbery case investigation. This was followed by charges of persecution and harassment, and even terrorist acts, which were leveled at the police by the government's political opposition. In December 1967 a Santo Domingo newspaper headlined a revelation (attributed to an anonymous high National Palace source) that Tejeda was receiving a monthly "representation fund" in addition to his salary. Tejeda vigorously denied the charge.

In March 1967 an attempt was made on the life of Col. Antonio Imbert Barreras, one of the two remaining assassins of Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo, the notorious tyrannical dictator. Luis Amiana Tió, the other living Trujillo assassin, who was named Secretary of State for Interior and Police immediately after the attempt on Imbert's life, said he was not satisfied with police investigation of the case and insisted on the removal of Tejeda as chief of police. According to Amiana, the police had committed "unjustifiable errors." Balaguer removed Tejeda as head of the police. From 28 March to 7 April Tejeda held the essentially honorary position of "inspector general of the national police and presidential advisor." He also maintained his temporary rank of brigadier general, which he had held since his appointment as head of the national police. Amiana had wanted Tejeda in a position in which he could control his activities, and in his new position he remained completely outside of Amiana's control. Balaguer next transferred Tejeda to the air force with the rank of colonel (his permanent rank) in the post of commander of the Base Defense Group at Juan Minaya Air Base in Santiago. He held this position for about a month.

Tejeda was described by a US military officer in August 1968 as an individual who was ambitious, devious, greedy, and suspected of being involved in graft from several sources. Enrique Pérez y Pérez, Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, has called both Tejeda and Col. Nivar Seijas unscrupulous and treacherous. Pérez y Pérez has long desired the removal of both Tejeda and Nivar from the military, and has increased his pressure on President Balaguer since November 1967 when it was learned

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that both had taken part in meeting with leaders of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD). (Active military officers in the Dominican Republic are supposed to refrain from engaging in political activities.)

Born in Yaguate in the Province of San Cristóbal on 19 October 1917, Luis Ney Tejeda Alvarez entered the national police through the ranks and became a lieutenant before leaving the forces in 1948. From 1948 to 1964 he was a partner in a banana plantation. He then returned to the police with the rank of major and was promoted to lieutenant colonel as a result of his success in breaking up a sizable contraband ring in Santo Domingo. At the time of the 24 April 1965 Dominican revolt, Tejeda was stationed in San Cristóbal. Regarding the landing of US troops in the Dominican Republic in late April, he has frequently said that their intervention saved the country from total chaos. Although he did not believe that the revolt was Communist inspired or that former President Juan Bosch was a Communist, he felt that the Communists were steadily gaining control of the rebellion until the arrival of US troops.

Tejeda was transferred to the important northern department at Santiago the month following the outbreak of the rebellion. In July he and the chiefs of the air force and army components in Santiago were reported to be very perturbed over the situation in the country; they favored a civilian government but believed that negotiations were taking too long and that the rebel group was being given too much to say in the discussions. They went as far as talking of breaking away from their commands in Santo Domingo and attacking the rebel stronghold in that city, even if it meant fighting the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF). By mid-September, Tejeda, who had defended the Provisional Government of Héctor García-Godoy (installed on 3 September), was beginning to doubt the wisdom of some of his arguments. He had maintained that García-Godoy's decision to expel Gen. Elías Wessin y Wessin on 9 September and US participation in the expulsion were justified on the basis of Wessin's lack of discipline, his unilateral decision to withdraw his troops from Santo Domingo, and the political machinations in which he was engaged. Tejeda had also defended the controversial appointments of "constitution-alists" and known leftists to government positions as necessary to direct their energies into productive channels, but in the face of the growing number of leftist appointments, he began to fear that the situation was getting out of control.

In early October it was reported that an anti-Communist vigilante committee had met with Tejeda to discuss the movement and the possibility of Tejeda's providing arms and police backing for it. Tejeda reportedly told the members of the group that he would not give arms to civilians but was in favor of the movement and would lend "passive" support to it. Later in the month he criticized García-Godoy as "one-sided" in his

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handling of the arms collection effort, and said that he would not comply with an order from the Attorney General to disarm Wessin's father-in-law. A few days later, following conflicts with the Governor of Santiago Province (who was a member of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD]) and countercharges between the two, Tejeda was ordered transferred from Santiago. However, after he had explained his position in an interview with García-Godoy, the transfer order was canceled.

Tejeda was well regarded in Santiago for the excellent performance of the police during the abortive rightwing coup attempt made on 22 November 1965 in that city. He did not overreact to the semi-comic plot, completely dispersed those engaged in the attempt in a period of a few hours, and jailed the leaders of the coup, without a single shot being fired. When a presidential mission visited Santiago on 26 November to investigate and prevent a recurrence of the events, Tejeda effectively defended himself to the mission against charges made by the local judicial authorities, as well as against criticism from the Provisional President. Tejeda and the two military commanders in Santiago were deeply disturbed by the politico-military crisis resulting from García-Godoy's decree of 6 January 1966 assigning the Armed Forces Minister and the chiefs of staff of the army and air force abroad. The three Santiago commanders issued a joint declaration stating that Communist influence would not be permitted to divide the ranks of the Dominican military, and expressed their firm resolve to fight an IAPF-imposed exile of their superiors. Whether they would actually have gone this far in reality is open to question, but observers noted that the sentiments they expressed seemed to be sincere.

In the wake of a 1 April 1966 coup attempt in the police department, Police Chief Morillo shuffled his key personnel so as to reduce the likelihood of another plot. As a result of these shifts, Tejeda was assigned to head the southern department, where he remained until he himself became chief of the police in August. Morillo believed Tejeda was involved in the plot and explained his actions as necessary to deprive Tejeda of the opportunity for personal gain at public expense and to minimize his political activities. US officials said that the charges of dishonesty levied at Tejeda by Morillo were false and pointed out that he lived very humbly. Some weeks after Tejeda had been appointed as police chief, friction arose between him and his superior, Minister of Interior and Police Ramón Castillo, which reached serious proportions over certain replacements Castillo wanted made in the police. Tejeda reportedly took the matter to the President, and on 14 October Castillo was shifted to another Cabinet position, probably in part, although not wholly, because of this incident.

Tejeda is known to have been pro-Balaguer for a number of years. During the period of the Provisional Government, he privately expressed his fears

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that a victory by Juan Bosch in the elections of 1 June 1966 would be disastrous for the country; nonetheless, he believed that free and honest elections were the only means for the country to right itself and he was very careful to be neutral in his treatment of all political parties. While local PRD leaders in Santiago did not consider Tejeda very sympathetic to the party, they respected him and expressed regret when he was transferred from that city during the early part of the electoral campaign. Among the local populace of Santiago as a whole, Tejeda was well-liked and his management of the police force was considered excellent. No complaints of police shakedowns from the local businessmen were reported. In dealing with the people of the area, Tejeda was assisted by his considerable experience outside of the police and by the many civilian contacts he had established during his time with the Social Security Department. Also, not having been in the police during the last years of the Trujillo regime he was not tainted by the police excesses of that period. Tejeda was also respected and liked by the men of his command in Santiago. Although a strict disciplinarian, he was thoughtful and considerate of his personnel. He would not accept disloyalty and did not hesitate to transfer those whom he could not fully trust or who failed in their duties. He was also well-regarded among the army and air force commands at Santiago; his judgment on political-military affairs was respected, and even though he was outranked by the other two military commanders in the area (both full colonels), his advice on policy matters was frequently sought.

Tejeda greatly admires the United States. He first visited this country (Puerto Rico) in June 1966 and came back very much impressed with the economic progress he saw, as well as, from a professional point of view, the comparative orderliness of traffic in San Juan. According to a US official in Santiago in August 1966, Tejeda was not known to have much money or properties and his only known financial investment was a part interest in a semi-abandoned banana plantation. Most of Tejeda's personal belongings, which were in the constitutionalist zone in Santo Domingo, were destroyed during the revolution.

Tejeda, who is reported to be a good family man, is married to the former Erudita Antonia Martínez and has one married daughter, one single daughter and a son who in 1967 was a cadet at the Dominican Air Force academy at San Isidro Air Base. (The daughters' names as reported have the matronymic of Martínez, but Tejeda's son evidently had a different mother, for his name is reported to be Luis Ney Tejeda Lora.) Tejeda has a half brother who is a lieutenant colonel in the police and who as of September 1966 was in charge of the personnel department in Santo Domingo. He is also a cousin of the corrupt former chief of the National Police, Belisario Peguero Guerrero, who was retired involuntarily in early 1965.

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