



Department of State

TELEGRAM

Pol 15-1 Dom Rep 46

UNCLASSIFIED 932

1R DEF 6 US
1R Pol 27 VIETS

Santo Domingo 1395
12/27/67

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ACTION ARA 15

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 0

DOD 01, SP 02, SS 20, NSA 02, SAH 03, SAL 01, EA 15, AID 28, RSR 01,

MM 01, 136 W

R 272227Z DEC 67
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4336
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 1395

SUBJECT: BALAGUER DENIES US HAS REQUESTED BASE ON SAMANA BAY
AND SOLDIERS FOR VIETNAM

1. LEFTIST-NATIONALIST DAILY NACIONAL AND ITS PARENT WEEKLY
MAGAZINE AHORA HAVE CONTINUED PLAY UP ALLEGED US PRESSURE ON
BALAGUER GOVT FOR BASE ON SAMANA BAY AND TO SEND DOM SOLDIERS TO
VIETNAM.

2. ON DEC 26 NACIONAL HEADLINED STORY BASED ON FOLLOWING QUESTION
SUBMITTED TO BALAGUER: "THE MAGAZINE AHORA IN ONE OF ITS LAST
NUMBERS POINTED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DR WOULD SEND SOLDIERS
TO VIETNAM AND WOULD LEASE SAMANA BAY TO THE UNITED STATES. IT
INDICATED ALSO THAT THIS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN
DEFENSE BOARD DURING THE LAST VISIT OF VARIOUS OF ITS MEMBERS TO
THE COUNTRY. WHAT TRUTH IS THERE TO THAT INFORMATION?"

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3. BALAGUER'S REPLY WAS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS: "THE STORY IS
ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. AT NO TIME HAS THIS POSSIBILITY BEEN PRESENTED

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TO THE DOMINICAN GOVT. THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD CAME TO THE COUNTRY ON A COURTESY VISIT AND DURING ITS STAY IN THE DR NONE OF ITS MEMBERS DEALT WITH SUBJECTS FOREIGN TO THE PURELY PROTOCOL CHARACTER OF THAT VISIT. THE GOVT HAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED SENDING DOMINICAN SOLDIERS TO VIETNAM AND NEITHER IS IT TRUE THAT ANY INSINUATION HAS BEEN MADE TO IT IN THAT SENSE. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH SUBJECTS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS HYPOTHESES WITHOUT THE REMOTEST ASPECT OF TRUTH."

4. STORY ASSERTED "IT KNOWN" THAT GREAT NUMBER OF SOLDIERS GOING VIETNAM RETURN TO US DEAD OR WOUNDED AND THAT US HAS GREATER MAN-POWER NEEDS. THEN, AFTER NOTING FONSECA AMIAMA HAD CHARACTERIZED STORIES ABOUT US INTEREST IN SAMANA BASE AS "SIMPLY SPECULATIONS" AND HAD DENIED THAT US GOVT HAD MADE ANY OFFER TO DR AUTHORITIES TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASE AT SAMANA BAY OR THAT HE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE TH AT US HAD SUCH PROPOSITION IN MIND, NACIONAL REPEATED RUMOR CITED IN EARLIER AHORA ARTICLE TO EFFECT US SEEKS SAMANA BAY AS SUBSTITUTE FOR BASE ON GUANTANAMO BAY NOW RENDERED INSECURE BY CASTRO GOVT. CRIMMINS

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