

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

PO4 23-8 DOM REP
193096
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IR DEF 9 DOM REP
IR PS 9 US-DOM REP

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CIRCULAR

Origin

ACTION: ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS (except SANTO DOMINGO)

Info:

INFO: Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

MAY 12 3 44 PM '67

STATE

193096 CIRCULAR

SUBJECT: Dominican Situation

- Series of attacks on political personalities on all sides of political spectrum has caused some ~~concern~~ ^{concern} in Santo Domingo about course events taking there. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{If subject raised with you by} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{you may} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{draw on following information.} officials of host government ~~and~~ ^{may} draw on following information.
- On March 21, General Antonio Imbert, one of two survivors of Trujillo assassination and head of unrecognized right-wing QUOTE Government of National Reconstruction END QUOTE during 1965 crisis, was shot by unidentified assailants in Santo Domingo. He is now in Washington being treated (at GODR expense) as out-patient at Walter Reed. Incident provided left and right wing opposition opportunity step up their charges that Balaguer Government includes and favors Trujillista elements and thereby encourages reprisals against anti-Trujillista opposition. Balaguer, however, moved promptly to reassure all of his determination to get to bottom of Imbert case and punish culprits. This was in part successful (although identity of assailants still unknown) in countering Government's critics.
- On April 28, American school teacher was killed by grenade thrown into his apartment. Two suspects belonging to Castrista 14th of June were ~~originally~~ ^{originally} arrested and ~~xxxxx~~ ^{admitted} throwing grenade although have since denied this.

Drafted by:

ARA/CAR:GEBrown:dlc:5/12/67

Clearances:

ARA/CAR - Mr. Long

Tel. Ext.

4688

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

ARA - Robert M. Sayre

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4. On May 4, Senator Casimiro Castro of opposition Partido Revolucionario Dominicano (PRD) was severely burned by incendiary grenade which he said was thrown into his car from passing motorcycle. At Balaguer's request and GODR expense Castro was flown to US Army hospital in Canal Zone for treatment. Attack on Castro brought strong reaction from PRD leadership, ~~and~~ ^{now under control radical} PRD legislators withdrew from Congress in ~~but moderate elements in PRD trying to work out a face-saving arrange-~~ protest. PRD charges that Government unable maintain public order, guilty of ^{ment} repressions against opposition and no longer QUOTE constitutional END QUOTE.
5. On May 7, Luis Cepeda, long-time Balaguer supporter and Director of Telecommunications, was seriously injured by grenade thrown into his home. Cepeda is controversial figure and recently had widely-publicized clash with member of PRD.
6. In nationwide address May 8, Balaguer charged left and right wing opposition attempting create climate of terror to undermine stability in Dominican Republic. He also charged Castrista agents increasing their activity and stressed Communist danger. (We have no information of any significant increase in Communist activity; Balaguer's statement may have been made to warn off right-wing opposition.) Balaguer said if terrorism continued he would deport left and right wing extremists and take all strong measures permitted by laws and constitution to maintain law and order. Police patrols in Santo Domingo were substantially increased.
7. On night of May 10, two persons identified as PRD activists were murdered in Santo Domingo.
8. Rash of politically charged incidents could well lead to reprisals and further violence. Events have combined, whether by design or chance, to confront

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Balaguer with ~~most~~ serious challenge, ~~stability of Balaguer~~ Stability of Balaguer Government is not presently threatened, however, and there indications that

~~XXXX~~
more responsible elements in DR seeking to moderate situation.

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