

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUESOE/AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS
RULPAL/USCINCSO
STATE GRNC

*DEF 6 DR
XR DEF 12-DR*

BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1206

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1173 AND 1187

*Santo Domingo 1206
10/17/66*

USIA
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1. WEEKEND EXPECTATION AND ALARM OCCASIONED BY CONSTITUTIONALIST REACTION TO MOD ORDER FOR SURRENDER WEAPONS BY MEMBERS 27TH OF FEBRUARY CAMP NOW APPEARS LARGELY DISSIPATED.

2. PRESS TODAY HEADLINES THIS WEEKEND DEVELOPMENT ALONG WITH REASSURING STATEMENTS BY BOTH PRESIDENT AND MOD. OUT OF WELTER OF CONFLICTING PRESS VERSIONS, THERE EMERGE PRESIDENTIAL DENIAL ANY GODR INTENT DISMANTLE OR WEAKEN 27TH OF FEBRUARY CAMP AND MOD DENIAL ANY PLAN TO DISARM MILITARY THERE FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN ISSUING LATTER DENIAL, MOD HAS EMPHASIZED THAT PURPOSE OF ORDER IN QUESTION WAS TO

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PERMIT INVENTORY OF CAMP WEAPONS AND RATIONALIZATION ITS ARSENAL. PRESS ALSO REPORTS SUNDAY MORNING MEETING IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ATTENDED BY MOD, SERVICE CHIEFS AND TOP RANKING AUTHORITIES OF 27TH OF FEBRUARY CAMP, BUT SAYS NO DETAILS AVAILABLE AS TO SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

3. MOD TODAY STATES PRIVATELY HIS ORDER WAS AIMED AT LOCATING AND BRINGING UNDER OFFICIAL CONTROL HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AT CAMP AND HAD NO REFERENCE TO RIFLES OR SIDEARMS OF CAMP PERSONNEL.

4. BALAGUER TOLD AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING THAT ISSUE WAS ARTIFICIAL AND AROSE OVER MISUNDERSTANDING BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION BY LEFT FOR PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE. PRESIDENT SAID THERE EXISTS NO INTENTION OF DISARMING CAMP, THAT ON

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CONTRARY EACH MEMBER THEREOF WILL BE PERMITTED REGULATION WEAPON (PRESIDENT SAID RIFLE) FOR HIS OWN DEFENSE, AND THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT NOW HAVE SUCH WEAPONS WILL BE ISSUED THEM. CAMP WILL, HOWEVER, BE DIVESTED OF ITS HEAVY WEAPONS, PRESIDENT ADDED, STATING THAT FULL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM DEPUTY CAMP COMMANDER (AND SENIOR CONSTITUTIONALIST OFFICER AT THE CAMP) COL. TEJADA AT MEETING YESTERDAY ATTENDED BY LATTER, PRESIDENT, MOD AND SERVICE CHIEFS. BALAGUER INDICATED CLANDESTINE SALES AND OTHER EXFILTRATION OF CAMP'S HEAVY WEAPONS WAS FACTOR IN

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DECISION TO REMOVE THEM. TEJADA HAD EXPRESSED OPINION SUCH WEAPONS GENERALLY USELESS AS THEY IN POOR CONDITION, PRESIDENT SAID. (REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION COVERING REINTEGRATION IN GENERAL 27TH FEBRUARY CAMP AND ITS PERSONNEL BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY).

5. COMMENT: FACT IS THAT MANNER ARMS ISSUE WAS HANDLED GAVE RISE TO MISUNDERSTANDING IN ALL QUARTERS. SITUATION WAS NOT MADE CLEAR, APPARENTLY EVEN TO 27TH COMMANDER, UNTIL YESTERDAY'S MEETING.

GP-3. CRIMMINS

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