

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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SECRET FEB 19

RIO FOR GORDON

FROM BUNKER

1. GARCIA GODOY MET FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE HOURS YESTERDAY (FEB 18) WITH GROUP OF RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS INCLUDING MOD. NAVY C/S JIMENEZ, ARMY DEPUTY C/S PILARTE AND AIR FORCE DEPUTY C/S CRUZADO PENA. PRESIDENT SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED DUENAS AND ME THAT, AS RESULT LENGTHY AND SOMETIMES HEATED DISCUSSION, OFFICERS FINALLY AGREED ON PLAN TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF CHIEFS.

2. IDEA IS TO SET UP GENERAL STAFF BOARD OF ARMED FORCES (ESTADO MAYOR GENERAL) ON WHICH DE LOS SANTOS AND MARTINEZ WOULD SIT ALONG WITH THEIR REPLACEMENTS, JIMENEZ AND MOD. BOTH WOULD RETAIN RANK OF GENERAL AND REMAIN IN COUNTRY. BEAUCHAMPS WOULD TAKE OVER AS AIR FORCE C/S WHILE SUCCESSOR TO MARTINEZ WOULD BE CHOSEN FROM TERNA SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT BY HIGH COMMAND. NEW BOARD (PROVISION FOR WHICH APPARENTLY CONTAINED IN ARMED FORCES' ORGANIC LAW) WOULD FUNCTION AS ADVISORY UNIT ON WHICH MOD COULD CALL WHEN HE SO DESIRED. PRESIDENT SAID OFFICERS AT MEETING UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THIS SCHEME AND UNDERTOOK RAISE IT WITH DE LOS SANTOS AND MARTINEZ.

EM PRESIDENT ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN PERSUADING THESE TWO TO ACCEPT THIS EMINENTLY REASONABLE AND HONORABLE SOLUTION. HE ADDED THAT HE PREPARED ANNOUNCE PUBLICALLY FIRM DECISION MAKE NO FURTHER CHANGES IN ARMED FORCES' COMMAND STRUCTURE. WE ARE PRESENTLY EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN PUTTING PLAN ACROSS.

4. BRAGA HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM DE LOS SANTOS REFERRING TO PURPORTED PLOT BY IAPF TO KIDNAP HIM AND MARTINEZ. DE LOS SANTOS WARNED HE PREPARED DEFEND HIMSELF AND EXPRESSED HOPE NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO HIS FAMILY. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO BRAGA THAT HE MAKE CLEAR IN REPLYING TO DE LOS SANTOS THAT IAPF IS FULLY SUPPORTING PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS DECISIONS IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTIONS FROM COMMITTEE. GP-3 BENNETT

NOTE: PASSED ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, CIA, USIA, DOD, CINCLANT POLAD 2/19/66 AT 3:10 PM

SECRET

*Santa Domingo 1953
2/19/66*

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