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September 28, 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Dominican Republic: Weekend Roundup

The major weekend development was the return of Juan Bosch last Saturday morning. This in turn set off a chain of events which made it necessary for Ambassador Bunker to fly back to Santo Domingo Sunday evening. Earlier efforts by Ambassador Bunker and the Dominican military chiefs to convince Garcia Godoy to ask Bosch to stay in Puerto Rico a while longer were unavailing.

On arrival in the DR, Bosch went directly to the rebel zone to address an estimated crowd of 6,000 persons waiting to welcome him. This speech was rambling, long-winded and essentially anti-American. He made no effort to calm passions and encourage support of the Provisional Government. His attack on the United States centered on our military attaches in Santo Domingo, and "a sector" of the U.S. Government for ordering the troop landings. He had one sentence of studied contempt for Tap Bennett, but made no reference to you. He denied that the DR needed aid and expressed the view that the next elected government should take the U.S. and other IAFP countries (except Costa Rica and Honduras) to the International Court in a suit for over a billion dollars in indemnity for the intervention. Bosch gave no indication that he planned to work constructively with the Provisional Government. On the contrary, he incited the rebel camp to press its efforts to purge the military and oust the Inter-American Force. He spoke at length in justification of his own position and vented his spleen on those who, in his view, blocked his return.

The crowd at the welcoming rally fell far short of expectations. The Communist parties seemed to be out in force with their claques and banners. They were in such evidence that Bosch appeared to be uncomfortable and annoyed. At one point, he admonished the crowd not to use one anti-U.S. slogan imported from Cuba.

The military chiefs on their own initiative blocked caravans of people coming to the rally from the interior. There was a shooting incident at one check-point where a civilian was killed. The unauthorized action of the chiefs annoyed Garcia Godoy. This annoyance, plus a growing feeling on his part that he is not going to be able to dismantle the rebel zone until Minister for the Armed Forces Rivera Caminero is replaced, led him to the brink of

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announcing an ill-considered package deal under which he would replace Rivera and order Caamano to reintegrate the military officers and turn in all arms. Tap Bennett pointed out the pitfalls of the package: the bad timing after Bosch's demand that the chiefs be dismissed, the lack of enforcement provisions for the orders to Caamano, and the bad image created abroad by further concessions to the rebels. Given this turn of events, Bunker decided to return. He succeeded in getting Garcia Godoy to tackle the arms collection and reintegration of the rebel zone first, before making any further changes in the military high command.

Bunker reports that arms collection was to have started yesterday afternoon. Last night Garcia Godoy issued decree laws on reintegration of the rebel military into their former units and transfer of the National Police from the Armed Forces to the Ministry of Interior. Hopefully these steps will pave the way for the dismantling of the rebel zone in the next few days.

McGeorge Bundy