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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Classification

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Origin
Info:

ACTION: Amembassy PARIS ³
Re Paris' 20154 and 23155. ₉₋₂₀

The Secretary saw Ambassador Lucet on August 26 and expressed surprise about the reference to the Dominican Republic in the French statement of last Saturday. The Secretary did not make it as a formal protest but told Lucet that it is not helpful, when the entire world is deeply concerned about events in Czechoslovakia, for the French Government to confuse the issue by appearing to equate it with an entirely different situation. When Wallner sees Beaumarchais he might make the following points:

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(a) The initial move of American troops into the Dominican Republic was for the protection of thousands of American and other foreign lives in a situation where there was no government in existence and the police and armed forces informed us they could not be responsible for foreigners. The French Embassy asked our forces for protection.

(b) Within two or three days after the initial landing of forces, it became apparent that any solution achieved by force among the Dominicans themselves would result either in a Trujillo type regime or a Castro type

(3)

Drafted by: S:DRusk:jmr 8/30/68

Tel. Ext. Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: The Secretary

Clearances: EUR - Mr. Leddy
by [signature]

ARA - Mr. Vaky
S/S - Mr. Brown

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~~type~~ regime. Both of these had been condemned by the states of the Inter-American system and had been subjected to sanctions under the Inter-American regional arrangements.

(c) There is all the difference in the world between acting to give the people of a country a chance to determine their own future (Dominican Republic) and action to impose upon the people of a country a solution they do not want (Czechoslovakia).

END.

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