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HANDLING INDICATOR

JUN 12 8 10 AM 1967

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

DATE: JUNE 11, 1967

SUBJECT: Anti-Terrorist Patrols Suspended; Alleged Atropellos Investigated

REF : Santo Domingo 3798

Dom Rep

1. In acknowledgement of the relative tranquility in Santo Domingo over the past several weeks, Armed Forces Secretary Pérez y Pérez on June 4 announced suspension of the anti-terrorist Armed Forces patrols that had covered the city since May 8. Except for very limited patrolling by the Armed Forces in the downtown area, the patrols were effectively suspended June 5, leaving the National Police with the major responsibility for maintaining public order and safety in the capital.

2. Although "terrorism" clearly has abated, there continue to be occasional acts of violence and atropellos committed by members of police or military which potentially are embarrassing or harmful to the Balaguer Government. The most recent example of this was on June 1, when police broke up a meeting of the Instituto de Promocion Social (a GODR and AID supported urban community development group) during the showing of Tu Tambien (a USIS produced motivational film) and arrested the thirty persons in attendance. Taking advantage of the ensuing confusion, an Army enlisted man shot and killed one civilian and wounded another, apparently for purely personal reasons. Although the thirty persons arrested were released upon an appeal of the Papal Nuncio, the incident generated enough disorder in the area to make it necessary to call in military patrols. Another incident occurred on June 3 when traffic policemen stationed near the home of President Balaguer,

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opening fire on a passing car whose driver had refused an order to stop, accidentally shot and killed a youthful bystander.

3. Raising the hope that the government now may be more mindful of the need to take disciplinary measures against the authors of excesses, the policemen responsible for the above incident were discharged from the Police and placed at the disposition of judicial authorities. A more important indicator of the government's policy regarding police excesses, however, may be in the investigation of police atropellos in La Romana which were denounced recently by the PRD (see reftel). Presidential staff members Juan Bautista Carrion and Frank Bobadilla, in the company of PRD legislators Secundino Gil Morales and Miguel Soto and the two victims of the alleged atropellos, went to La Romana June 3 to investigate the incidents. Their report is now in the hands of President Balaguer. Also on June 3, Police and Interior Secretary Goico Morales announced that La Romana Police Commandant Col. Simon Tadeo Guerrero (specifically accused by the PRD for the La Romana atropellos) and San Cristobal Commandant Cesar A. Cornielle Carrasco (accused of having ordered the beating of several young trade unionists) were to be investigated by special boards composed of high-ranking police officers. The relationship between the President's investigation of the La Romana case and the police investigation of Tadeo Guerrero is not clear.

4. As a final item in the bracket of atropellos and "terrorism", it is to be noted that the Special Commission appointed by President Balaguer to investigate suspected police involvement in terrorist acts has not been heard from since a few days after its inception.

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