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face of such events, is something which good sense will tell Your Excellency is not in accordance with diplomatic relations, nor much less with the premises of International Law which humanity a long time ago succeeded in establishing in norms governing civilized dealings between countries.

"Your Excellency knows the attitude of our Government in the face of these events. Placing the principle to which we subscribe of the necessity of maintaining relations between the Governments of this hemisphere above the extreme gravity represented by the incidents cited above, we continued diplomatic relations with the Dominican Republic. Nevertheless, what the Government of Cuba cannot do is to contemplate impassively the mass extermination of prisoners of war and the indiscriminate bombing of defenseless cities, acts which are currently taking place in your country and which constitute flagrant violations of human rights incompatible with obligations assumed by the nations of America on the subject. They oblige us in defense of those international commitments emphatically to state our repudiation of such procedures by severing diplomatic relations between the two countries. For reason of diplomatic modesty, elementary principles of justice, and moral obligation with all the peoples of America, and especially the sister people of the Dominican Republic, we cannot maintain diplomatic relations with a government which before our very eyes is violating these principles. The Cuban people launched a heroic struggle for these principles, and for them we break diplomatic relations with Your Excellency's Government.

"Consequently, I request Your Excellency to send as soon as possible the passports of the personnel of your mission, of the consuls accredited in Cuba, and of their respective families in order that this Ministry may issue the corresponding exit visas. It is also requested that we be informed of the date and means of travel for leaving Cuba.

"I take this opportunity to repeat to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

"Signed Dr. Armando Hart, Minister of State ad interim."

Inasmuch as the Dominican Chargé was not in Habana and the Ministry of State reportedly was unable to locate a diplomatic official to whom the note could be given, the Papal Nuncio was used as the avenue for transmitting the document.

The note sent to the Nuncio reads as follows:

"Habana, June 26, 1959

"Monsignor:

"Given the fact that the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Dominican Republic is absent from Habana, not having communicated his departure to this Ministry, nor having accredited another official as the Chief of Mission, and considering that Cuba at the present time does not have diplomatic

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