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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Ciudad Trujillo, D.R.

328  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 14, 1956.

REF : (1) Embassy Despatch No. 79 of August 15, 1955 (WEEKA No. 33)  
(2) Embassy Despatch No. 53 of July 27, 1955

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 4/20/77

5 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION ARRA-4	DEPT. RM/R-2	IN OLIG P-1	PER C. Bray	OFFICE ARA
	REC'D 2/20	F CIA-7	OTHER USIA-10	FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630368	NAVY-3

SUBJECT: Dominican-Cuban Relations

Yesterday afternoon the Cuban Ambassador, Dr. Orlando DAUMY Amat, called on Ambassador PHEIFFER to keep an appointment he had requested on February 11, 1956. He opened the conversation by saying that Cuban-Dominican relations are ostensibly on an amicable plane, but that there are disturbing undercurrents. He stated that he had come purely on his own initiative since he wished to inform the American Embassy of a serious situation which had arisen some months ago in regard to his country's relations with the Dominican Republic. He alluded in particular to SANCHEZ Hinojosa (see references) who, having fled the Dominican Republic to Port-au-Prince, was the subject of a public extradition trial there and later fled to Cuba. From Habana, after the Dominicans had failed to attain speedy extradition, Sanchez returned to the Dominican Republic and was commissioned a captain in the National Police, a rank higher than any he had previously achieved while a member of that body.

Ambassador Daumy implied that during his own recent trip to Habana he had picked up a rumor that the Dominicans had "established a beach-head" within the Cuban armed forces by utilizing apparently dissident Dominican exiles. He said he had heard that this effort had been detected and frustrated. While he did not identify his allegations as more than mere rumor, he did go on to inquire whether "since we had a Military Attaché" we could set him to finding out what activities had taken place at this end.

Ambassador Pheiffer stated that the Embassy was generally aware of the Sanchez Hinojosa case and had been kept informed by the Embassy in Habana regarding the press activities of Dominican exiles. He went on to say that we would be happy to cooperate with the Cuban Ambassador to the extent of exchanging information that could properly be exchanged and would be of significance in Cuban-Dominican relations. He said that naturally any threat to the stability of governments in the Caribbean area would be of vital interest to the United States as he knew it would be to Cuba, but that of course it would not be possible to place our Military Attaché in danger of embarrassment by asking him to conduct a specific investigation that might have to be carried on in an undercover manner.

WCaffeld Jr/fw  
REPORTER

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Ambassador Daumy said he fully understood and was principally concerned that we be informed regarding the situation, and he expressed gratitude for Ambassador Pheiffer's reception of him and for his willingness to extend all proper cooperation.

Comment: Since Ambassador Daumy has never given any evidence of being particularly aggressive or imaginative, it is strongly suspected that he did not make the call on his own initiative, as claimed, but rather at the suggestion of his Government. The visit seemed to be in the nature of a fishing expedition to ascertain just how much this Embassy knew concerning current Dominican relations with Cuba and any subversive efforts by this government against the Cuban regime. He did not volunteer any more information than that reported above, which was already well known to the Embassy, except for the alleged attempt to penetrate the Cuban armed forces.

Copies of this despatch are being sent directly to the Embassies at Habana and Port-au-Prince. Comment would be appreciated.

For the Ambassador:

  
Wm. C. Affeld, Jr.  
Counselor of Embassy

cc: Habana  
Port-au-Prince

  
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