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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: December 20, 1956

SUBJECT: 1. Travel of Cubans to the Dominican Republic
2. Dominican Naval Maneuvers
3. Positive Deeds
4. Broadcasts by Dr. Victor Espinosa on Voz Dominicana
5. Role of the Organization of American States

PARTICIPANTS: General Manuel de Moya, Minister without Portfolio of the Dominican Republic
MID - Mr. Jack D. Neal, Director

COPIES TO: ARA
MID/C
Amembassy, Ciudad Trujillo
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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1. Travel of Cubans to the Dominican Republic

General de Moya began by saying he wanted to report on the request I made to him some ten days ago (December 10) regarding the information the Department had received that approximately 100 young Cubans of military age had recently passed through the United States for the Dominican Republic.

He stated he had discussed this with Generalissimo Trujillo who authorized him to give us every assurance there are not going to be any revolutionary activities on the part of Cubans in the Dominican Republic. "I can assure you not one of them will be allowed to leave there with even a pocket knife", he said.

The General admitted Cubans had been allowed to enter the Dominican Republic but stated they were permitted there in order to offset the anti-Trujillo Dominicans in Cuba. However, he reiterated the Generalissimo's firm intention to curb their activities.

He spoke at length about the Generalissimo's realization that his participation in revolutionary activities in other countries would only react to his detriment and that he is resolved to have nothing whatsoever to do with such activities.

I told the General I was pleased with their determination to curb the action of foreign revolutionary figures and could readily understand the Generalissimo's reluctance to jeopardize his position.

General de Moya

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General de Moya throughout our conversation was most optimistic regarding the bettering of Cuban-Dominican relations and continually expressed his appreciation for the Department's interest.

2. Dominican Naval Maneuvers

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I told General de Moya we were pleased to see his Government had made a public announcement of the recent Dominican naval maneuvers to which they had invited the diplomatic corps. I said this type of action went far in dispelling any rumor or false conjectures by neighboring countries during periods of internal difficulties (having in mind Cuban revolutionary action and change of government in Haiti).

The General agreed and stated they had officially informed the Haitian and Cuban representatives of the maneuvers.

I said we were glad they were taking this positive action for all of us should do everything possible to reduce tension in the area.

I said the United States was already increasing its vigilance over aliens who might be attempting to foment revolutions while here in this country. I told him our laws on this point were specific and we intended to see they are not violated.

I noted to the General that Mexico had announced a campaign against Cubans in Mexico who were reported to be involved in the present Cuban revolutionary activities.

General de Moya said we could be assured that the Dominican Republic would join these efforts to curb revolutionary activities.

3. Positive Deeds

In connection with the Dominican announcement of maneuvers, I explained that Nicaragua informed neighboring countries of their recent ground and air maneuvers and that this notification did much to avoid preoccupation by other countries.

I took this opportunity to go into a lengthy discussion on the virtues of positive deeds such as the maneuver announcement. I went back to early July 1956 prior to the Meeting of Presidents in Panama when I discussed with him (on July 11 - during my visit to the Dominican Republic) their intention not to attend the Panama meeting. General de Moya interrupted to say it was only as a result of our conversation that the decision was made that the Dominican Republic would attend. He said he went immediately to the Generalissimo to report my discussion points and that he (de Moya) was given orders to make the necessary arrangements.

I told him I still felt it was the proper action and this present situation deserved similar positive steps. I said the Dominican Republic might not have received plaudits for attending the Panama conference, but it certainly saved itself from historical criticism which would have been heaped-on had it not attended.

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Getting back to the maneuver announcement, I said this was just another positive deed which will in the end reap credit. If the Dominican Republic keeps up this type of action they are bound to benefit.

This lead me into:

4. Broadcasts by Dr. Victor Espinosa on Voz Dominicana

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I informed General de Moya that from time to time we received transcripts of Dr. Victor Espinosa's broadcasts against Cuba.

The General gave a very knowing smile and chuckled.

I told him I had never read such poisonous exaggerations and that we understood these untruths were one of Cuba's sources of worry.

I told him we had freedom of the press and speech in the United States and that I was aware of some newspapers' criticism of the Dominican Government -- but, as he knew, we could not control it. However, the campaign against Cuba was coming from a Dominican Government agency and I felt that under similar circumstances we would not authorize a campaign in our own country.

General de Moya told me we could be assured the campaign would stop. I told him I was glad to hear him say that because we had noted the Cuban campaign against the Dominican Republic had relaxed and I felt would decrease even more if given an opportunity.

Time and again the General assured me of his Government's desire for peace in the Caribbean.

5. Role of the Organization of American States

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I told General de Moya that whenever the time came when his Government -- or any other of the American Republics felt their country was in danger of attack by any other country, the proper action would be to bring the matter to the attention of the OAS. If the threat was realistic he could be certain that organization would take immediate action as it has done in the past.

I left with the General a copy of the December 20 issue of "Diario las Americas", pointing out three articles: (1) Senator Smathers' (Florida) concern regarding the Caribbean situation; (2) Mexico's action against Cuban revolutionists in Mexico, and (3) Easing of tension in Cuba.

General de Moya said I could be assured "everything is going to be sugar and honey in the Caribbean."

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