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Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
January 29, 1966

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TALKING PAPER

1. Historic Decision and Opportunity of Chiefs & AF:

A) Demonstrate not apart from, above civil government, obedient to civil authority, not engaging in political activity.

2. Communism:

- a) Changes proposed by President do not diminish effectiveness of AF as bulwark vs. communism in D.R. - officers named by President all men of competence and integrity and generally acceptable to AF.
- b) Not appropriate in democratic society to carry on struggle vs. communism by illegal methods.
- c) Important element in defense vs. communism is ability to demonstrate country can hold fair and free elections. Groundwork has been laid for this.
- d) In light of threat posed by Tri-Continental Congress to BR and other L.A. countries, failure to carry out G&S formula would discourage democratic forces both here and in other nations and proportionately increase prospects for success Castro-communist efforts here and in hemisphere.
- e) Members of G&S have profound commitment prevent spread of communism in hemisphere, joined together in solemn pledge. They are also committed to democratic processes.

3. Act of Reconciliation and Institutional Act:

- a) True not all provisions of Acts have been carried out. But this not time to engage in recriminations over past failures, but to carry country forward from here.
- b) Act of Reconciliation necessarily vague in some respects because of recognition that not everything could be foreseen and some things would have to be dealt with on pragmatic basis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FPC/CDR *GF* Date *9/18/96*

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- e) Period of tranquillity, stability, and of terrorism essential. Without cooperation of AF this cannot be achieved.

4. Integrity of AF:

- a) President committed to maintenance of integrity of AF. Also feeling of Ad Hoc Committee this essential. President's concern demonstrated by:

- 1) Readiness to command positions.
- ii) Assurances he is prepared to give:

- 1) No further changes in high command.
- 2) After changes individuals free to travel to and from RH.
- 3) Individuals will have ample time to arrange preparations for departure.
- 4) Officers talking foreign assignments will not be cancelled or retired.
- 5) President intends confirm intention maintain integrity AF by addressing nation on importance of role of AF and determination maintain integrity AF.

- b) Ad Hoc Committee prepared to state in writing it is aware President's assurances and endorse them.

5. Political Situation Makes Changes Necessary:

- a) Changes do not reflect on competence, integrity, or patriotism of Commanders Rivera or Chiefs.
- b) Present political situation makes changes necessary if stability, tranquillity needed to carry country to elections are to be achieved.

6. If Signatories to Agreement Disappear, Who Will Carry out Agreement?:

- A) One signatory (Constitutional Gov't.) has already disappeared. The PG under Constitutional Act remains as the sole, sovereign govt. with responsibility to carry out agreement.

7. Rivera's and Chiefs Departure Would Create Unrest, Disorganization in AF:

- a) Difficult to believe AF in such state of disorganization that reasonable changes in high command cannot be carried out if Chiefs consent to such changes.

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8. Chiefs Cannot Ignore Responsibility, Assumed When They Signed Act, Carry Country to Elections:

- a) It is responsibility of F8, under Institutional Act, to carry country to elections.
- b) By leaving high commands in competent hands their colleagues Chiefs will best contribute to atmosphere peace, stability, thus fulfilling responsibility they assumed to carry country to elections.

9. Responsibility of Chiefs:

- a) Not junior officers who should determine policies of AF, but those in command. Minister and Chiefs have responsibility to lead, not allow subordinates to make decisions for them. First obligation is to country, take priority even over AF.

Amb. Bunker:dr1:1/29/66

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