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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Daughter:

This should not
be buried in my
Dominican Republic

file.

mf

~~THE WHITE HOUSE~~
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1965

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MARVIN:

Further checking showed there were as many as 3,800 Americans in the Dominican Republic. A memo of the correct figures is attached. This information was not available at the time Secretary Rusk spoke.

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By ics, NARS, Date 8-1-84

MINUTES

MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

ON DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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MINUTES

MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

ON DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Cabinet Room

Wednesday, April 28, 1965

7:30 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

From the Executive: The President, The Vice President, The Secretary of State, The Under Secretary of State, The Secretary of Defense, The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, The Ambassador to the United Nations, The Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

From the Senate: Mansfield, Dirksen, Long, Kuchel, Fulbright, Hickenlooper, Saltonstall, Smathers.

From the House: McCormack, Albert, Boggs, Ford, Arends, Dr. Morgan, Mrs. Bolton.

From the White House: Moyers, Valenti, Reedy, O'Brien, Watson, Busby.

The President began the meeting at 7:30 p.m., EDT, calling on the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State: Mr. Rusk reviewed developments of the past several days in the Dominican Republic. He explained that the PRD moved to overthrow Donald Reid Cabal, successfully ousted him quickly. However, some elements of the Army were determined not to allow ex-President Bosch to return to power. By Tuesday afternoon, a consolidation of the situation had apparently been accomplished and several of

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the military leaders declared a junta. Mr. Rusk recited the findings of a recent poll among the Dominican people regarding their preferences for President in a popular election.

Mr. Rusk explained that it appeared, as of the previous day, that the armed forces and police would be able to establish order. However, during the afternoon, there had been a deterioration. A number of civilians in the city of Santo Domingo had been armed by Rebels, including some Castro-trained Communist supporters. Law and order had broken down as a result. Approximately 1,100 Americans were taken out of Santo Domingo on Tuesday and approximately 1,300 remained. The Ambassador had been informed by the junta that American lives were in danger and that further protection was needed for them because the military and police could not guarantee protection.

The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency: Admiral Raborn reported that there had been positive identification of three ring-leaders of the Rebels as Castro-trained agents.

The Secretary of Defense: Because of the danger in the Dominican Republic situation, the President had instructed the Department of Defense to place troops in position to take the necessary measures for protection of the lives of American citizens. Mr. McNamara reviewed the deployment of units of the fleet, including the aircraft carrier U.S.S. BOXER, with its complement of Marines and helicopters. He reported that approximately 2,000 Marines were in position to be ashore within a time span of one to ten hours. He reported also that two divisions of paratroopers were on alert at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Mr. McNamara said that all forces had been put in position and placed on alert to meet contingencies in the Dominican Republic.

The President: The President reported that Ambassador Bennett had advised Washington that authorities in Santo Domingo were no longer able to provide protection for American lives. The President reviewed the fact that we had repeatedly asked for a cease-fire by both sides. Since activities were continuing there, however, he had on the advice of the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense asked that helicopters and other

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essential supporting equipment be in position to act as necessary.

The President reported that it would shortly be announced -- within the hour -- that the United States has sent Marine units ashore to protect and escort American citizens to safety. This action, he explained, was being taken on the basis of unanimous decisions of our country team in the Dominican, the recommendation of the Ambassador, and on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The President reported that shortly several hundred of our military forces would be landing in Santo Domingo.

Senator Fulbright: The Senator asked if there were any way in which the Organization of American States could help.

The Secretary of State: Mr. Rusk replied that there was concern within the OAS both for the safety of the nationals of the member states present in the Dominican capital and for the implications of the developing situation in the Dominican Republic.

The President: At this point, the President read to those present the messages received in Washington from Ambassador Bennett on the scene in Santo Domingo, D. R.

Senator Dirksen: The Senator related a telephone call he had received the previous night from Miami, reporting that the Dominican Vice Consul there was advising persons that Castro was making a concerted effort to take over the Dominican Republic. Senator Dirksen, commented that without regard to the reliability of the information he had received, it was necessary to take into account the factor of Castro.

The President: He observed that there was no alternative to the actions being taken by the United States in view of the unanimous recommendations received from all responsible officials in regard to the advisable course for this government to pursue.

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Senator Dirksen: He observed that, speaking for himself, if this proliferates, it seems imperative that the United States go to the heart of the matter and lay it out at them. Speak our piece, he said, and demand respect for it. He expressed his hope that actions taken would be vigorous and adequate and said "I will stand up for you."

Speaker McCormack: It seems obvious that this situation is not consistent with our national interest. He asked the question, Can we afford another Castro situation of this sort?

The President: He reviewed the various influences contributing to escalation of the situation in Santo Domingo and observed that we can't waste one moment in taking action. He asked the Congressional leadership if there was support or criticism for any of these actions.

Senator Smathers: He asked whether it was the plan to put the Marines in and take them out immediately -- or allow them to remain there?

The President: We haven't crossed that bridge yet.

The Secretary of State: This is not a 24-hour operation.

Representative Arends: How many civilians are there?

The Secretary of State: 1,300 or, maybe 1,000 *- all of whom do not want to leave.

The President: At this point, the President read to those present a preliminary draft of the statement he planned to deliver on Television network broadcast shortly. The President asked if there were objections or suggestions.

Senator Mansfield: Suggested that mention be made of the OAS.

* See Appendix material for corrected figures

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Ambassador Stevenson: Concurred in Senator Mansfield's suggestion.

The President: The President agreed with the suggestion and directed that appropriate language be included. He again asked if there were comments, criticisms or objections to the statement or action. None were expressed.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p. m. Senator Mansfield, Ambassador Stevenson, Mr. Bundy and others reviewed the statement, making the changes directed by the President. The President, The Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and Admiral Raborn individually briefed various late arrivals, including Senator Hickenlooper, Representative Ford, etc.

The President left the room at 8:25 p. m.

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STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
in the
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

April 26 - May 7, 1965

The American Embassy in the Dominican Republic at the beginning of the recent crisis, estimated 3,800 Americans present on the island. Additionally, there are thousands who hold American citizenship, but who have been residents of the island for many years -- many of whom originally came from Puerto Rico.

As of May 7, 2,537 Americans had been evacuated from the island. Embassy Santo Domingo estimates 200 of the remaining 1,300 Americans would desire evacuation. A breakdown of the number of Americans evacuated and the estimated number remaining is presented below.

	<u>Estimated No. Americans In or Remaining</u>	<u>Cumulative No. of Americans Evacuated</u>
April 26	3,800	-
April 27-29	2,685	1,115
April 29 - May 3	2,003	1,897
May 6	1,300	2,500
May 7	1,293	2,537