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Action

Control: 16167

ARA

Rec'd: JUNE 22, 1959

Info

8:12 PM

FROM: HABANA

SS

TO: Secretary of State

SP

NO: 1602, JUNE 22, 6 PM

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PRIORITY

RMR

DEPTEL 1057.

I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON ON UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AGUERO AND EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AT REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND MEMBERS OF TWO EXPEDITIONARY FORCES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LANDED FROM ABROAD, AS WELL AS AT REPORTS THAT A GROUP WAS FORMING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FOR PURPOSE OF ATTEMPTING AN INVASION OF CUBA. I SAID A REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN UP THIS MATTER YESTERDAY WITH MINISTER OF STATE ROA IN WASHINGTON. AGUERO GAVE NO SIGN OF HAVING HEARD FROM ROA ABOUT THIS.

OUR CONCERN DUE, I SAID, TO OUR DESIRE TO SEE PEACE IN THE HEMISPHERE, TO EFFECT A DISTURBANCE IN CARIBBEAN WOULD HAVE ON OUR OWN SECURITY AND ON AMERICAN INTEREST IN COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AND TO OUR ANXIETY TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVENESS OF OAS WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED OVER SO MANY YEARS. I ASKED OF DR. AGUERO COULD GIVE US ANY INFORMATION OR SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT HELP IN PRESERVING PEACE.

AGUERO CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THIS FIGHTING EXCEPT WHAT HE HAD READ IN NEWSPAPERS. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN NOTHING TO SUGGEST INVADING PARTIES HAD COME FROM CUBA, AND STATED REPEATEDLY THAT POLICY OF CUBAN GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT NO MILITARY EXPEDITIONS FROM CUBAN SOIL HAD NOT CHANGED.

I ASKED WHETHER IN EVENT OF POSSIBLE INVASION OF CUBA FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC GOC WOULD TAKE MATTER TO OAS. AGUERO REPLIED THIS WAS "HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION" WHICH WOULD BE ANSWERED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IF AND WHEN SITUATION AROSE.

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-2-1602, JUNE 22, 6 PM, FROM HABANA

IT IS POSSIBLE AND EVEN PROBABLY THAT NEITHER AGUERO NOR ROA KNOWS ABOUT ACTS OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS TO FACILITATE EXPEDITION AGAINST DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IF WE WISH TO EXERT POSITIVE EFFECT ON GOC I BELIEVE THIS MIGHT BE DONE ONLY WITH CASTRO HIMSELF AND MAKING USE OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION PROVING CUBAN COMPLICITY. BELIEVE THIS TYPE OF APPROACH SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY US BUT SHOULD INVOLVE OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE SUCH AS MEXICO, ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, BRAZIL FOR EXAMPLE. PERHAPS MORA COULD COME TO HABANA.

AGUERO STATED HE WOULD SEND CASTRO A NOTE ABOUT MY VISIT. I EXPECT TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTION.

BONSAL

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