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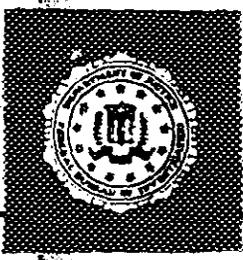
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Current Intelligence Analysis

October 25, 1961

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LATIN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Intelligence Agency Abolished

Efforts of the new Dominican Government, headed by President Joaquin Balaguer, to rid itself of the oppressive reputation of the regime of Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo have included a shake-up of the Dominican intelligence service. Several Dominican intelligence officers prominently associated with the brutality and repression of the Trujillo regime have been either replaced or relegated to the background. Harsher forms of investigation and control, such as torture and assassination, are reportedly no longer in evidence. In fact, the principal Dominican intelligence arm, the notorious Servicio de Inteligencia Militar (SIM), has been abolished and replaced by the so-called Agencia Central de Informaciones (ACI). According to information furnished by a Dominican intelligence agent who recently defected, however, this revamping of Dominican intelligence may represent more of a temporary change than a permanent reform.

Official Marooned

Information from this defector and other well-placed sources indicate that SIM went out of existence and was supplanted by the more respectable ACI in June, 1961, shortly after the assassination of Trujillo on May 30, 1961. Juan Abbes Garcia, SIM leader, was abruptly relieved of his commission as a colonel in the Dominican Army and was assigned to a minor post in Japan. Following his arrival in the Orient, Garcia was dismissed from the Dominican diplomatic corps, and his diplomatic passport was canceled. In effect, the former SIM chieftain found himself stranded on a foreign shore, thousands of miles from the Dominican Republic.

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Auth Para 4-102 DOD 5200.10

October 25, 1961

Moves to Nassau

Arturo Espallat, former head of the Foreign Agents Section of SIM, was offered a secondary diplomatic position in the Middle East. Apparently seeing the handwriting on the wall, Espallat declined this post and established residence at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where he reportedly is in possession of substantial funds and is making arrangements to set up a trust fund for his children.

Anonymous Letter

Espallat's presence in the Bahamas was brought to the attention of authorities there through an anonymous letter signed "An American Friend" which described Espallat as a hated killer of the Trujillo dictatorship who was wanted by American authorities in connection with the assassination of a Trujillo critic.

Moratorium on Killings

According to the Dominican defector previously mentioned, Dominican intelligence has apparently declared a moratorium on the use of killings and other atrocities employed by Trujillo to stifle opposition elements. (See the Current Intelligence Analysis of February 15, 1961.) The feared Acciones y Represiones Section previously connected with SIM--headed by the infamous "Cholo" Villeta and staffed by a group of professional assassins--has no formal connection with the ACI and operates mysteriously under the wing of the lesser known Servicio de Inteligencia de la Aviacion Militar Dominicana. The source, however, believes this is mere camouflage and that Villeta and his henchmen continue to receive orders directly from ACI headquarters. Reportedly, members of the Acciones y Represiones Section continue to use ACI automotive and technical equipment, although they are careful not to frequent the offices of ACI.

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October 25, 1961

Opposition Tolerated

In line with President Balaguer's professed aim of democratizing the country, a degree of open political opposition to the regime is now tolerated. Five opposition parties, in response to Balaguer's invitation, are currently operating openly, if warily, in the Dominican Republic. The consensus among Dominican exiles in the United States, however, is that the Government will keep opposition activities within strict limits and will tolerate such activities only so long as they do not offer a serious threat to the regime. Information furnished by the former Dominican intelligence agent tends to confirm this belief.

Tactics Less Obvious

According to the former intelligence agent, ACI, like its predecessor SIM, has directed almost all of its efforts and resources toward following and counteracting opposition activities, although ACI has employed less obvious tactics in this regard. Reportedly, among the chief techniques employed by ACI to control opposition activities are: (1) infiltration of undercover agents into opposition parties to develop information concerning their plans and strategy and to identify their followers; (2) provoking of incidents of violence in the vicinity of opposition political meetings to provide an excuse for the arrest and interrogation of key opposition leaders.

Changes in Top Posts

The former intelligence agent has further advised that, although there have been a number of changes in top posts, the personnel of ACI on a working level is substantially the same as the former SIM staff. Moreover, there has been no noticeable curtailment in the far-reaching nature of ACI operations, as compared with SIM activities, with the exception of the soft-pedaling of the Acciones y Represiones Section. From its five-story headquarters in Ciudad Trujillo, ACI continues to direct the activities of a formidable staff of agents organized into highly specialized units (including a political brigade, a surveillance brigade, a clearance section, an identification bureau, and special radio, transportation, legal, censorship, arms, press, and photographic sections).

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