

An Assassin Visits the U.S. ⁹

By JEREMY CAMPBELL

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WASHINGTON—Only a very few men in history have murdered a head of state and survived to boast about it. One such is Gen. Antonio Imbert Barreras, who took up residence in a Washington apartment the other day.

He is quite alone except for two armed Air Force colonels, a rotating crew of State Dept. security men and a cousin wearing a shoulder holster.

Gen. Imbert, a blue-eyed sophisticate was one of eight conspirators who gunned down the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo on a lonely coastal road near Santo Domingo one May evening in 1961. Six of the assassins are now dead, slaughtered by Trujillo's men.

Clean Linen and Vests

Two remain nervously alive. One is Luis Amiama Tio, a ruthless ladies' man with an

obsession for clean linen and fondness for bullet-proof vests. The other is Gen. Imbert, the man who fired a decisive shot into Trujillo's body with his own gold-plated Colt .45 and today claims to have a price of \$1,000,000 on his head.

For anyone fascinated by the reckless Latin tradition of politics by fast car and gunfire, Imbert is a collector's item. He sits on a sofa in his rented suite with all the blinds drawn, unable to resist the temptation to give just one interview to the newspapers.

They Took \$800,000,000

"There are men on this earth who would kill for 10 cents" he says. "The Trujillos got out of

the Dominican Republic with \$800,000,000. They can afford to spend big money to get me."

The sobering part of this performance is that Imbert is not exaggerating. One morning last March, as he was driving past the British Embassy in Santo Domingo, a gunman overtook him at 90 miles an hour and sprayed seven bullets into his back with an automatic rifle.

It is for this reason that he is making his first cautious visit outside the Dominican Republic for six years, to attend as an outpatient the Walter Reed Hospital where men injured in Vietnam are tended by doctors skilled in the treatment of gunshot wounds.

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