

Johnson Briefs Leaders On Viet, Island Policies

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World Situation Is Discussed By Legislators

By Edward T. Pollard
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President Johnson called Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress to the White House yesterday to "review the international situation on a far-ranging scale."

He had Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara brief the lawmakers on the world picture, including the political-military situation in the Dominican Republic and Viet-Nam. He also had McGeorge Bundy, White House special assistant for national security affairs, report to them on his exploratory mission to the Dominican Republic.

Mansfield Comments

The meeting, which took place in the Cabinet Room, lasted more than two and a

half hours. However, Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, Democratic leader of the Senate, said afterward that "nothing of a crisis nature" came up.

Mr. Johnson flew to Texas last night for his first visit to the LBJ Ranch in six weeks. He will deliver a nationally televised commencement speech at Baylor University in Waco at 1:30 p.m. EDT today.

The situation in the Dominican Republic, scene of a bloody revolt until a ceasefire was invoked, appears to be manageable now, and the President's top brass concerned about it than he is about the war in Viet-Nam.

Criticism Continues

The Administration continues to be criticized for its conduct in both Viet-Nam and the Dominican Republic. There are those who say, for example, that Mr. Johnson exaggerated the danger of a Communist takeover in the Dominican Republic, a danger he cited for sending in large

numbers of Marines and Army paratroops.

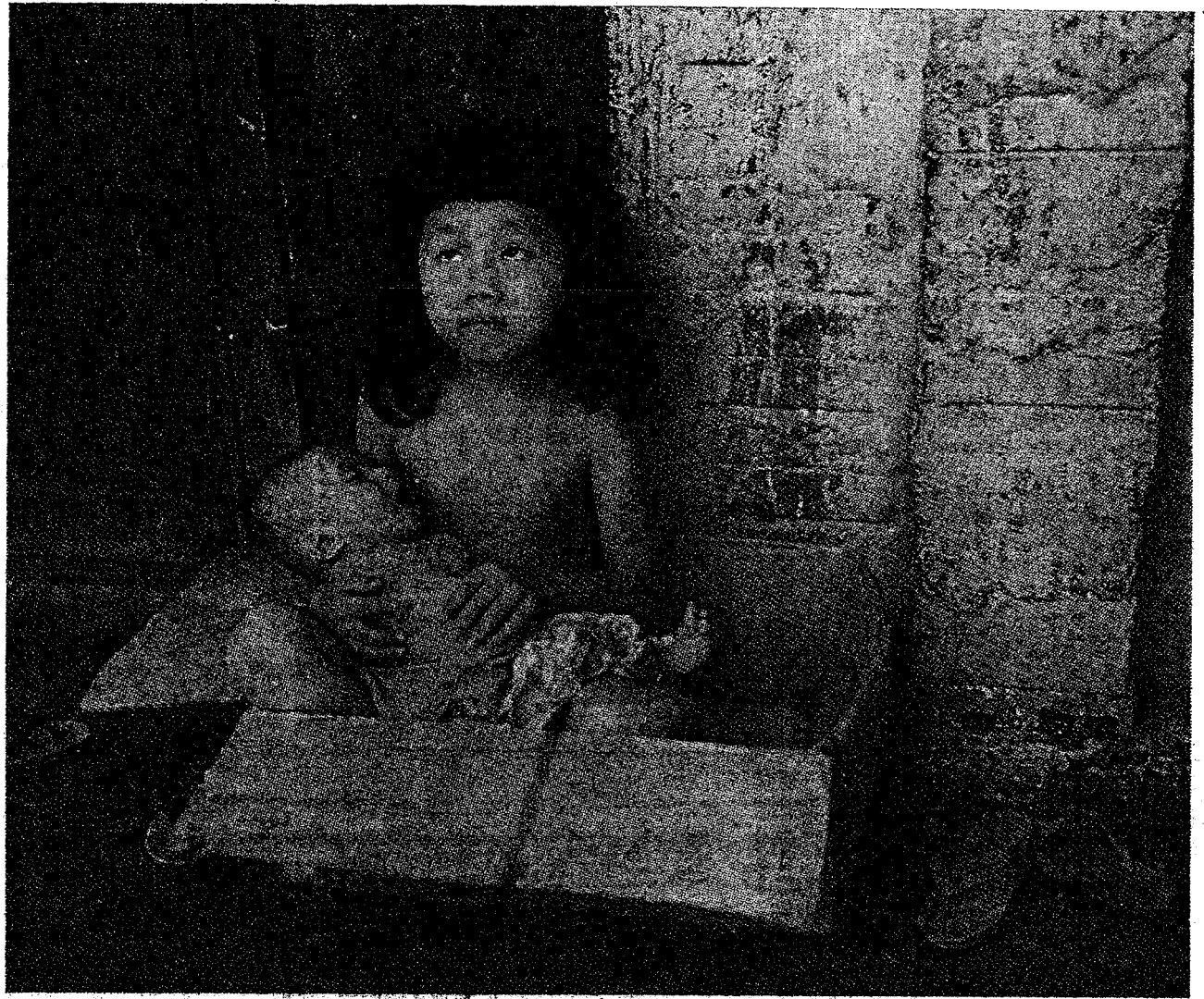
An Administration source yesterday insisted that the danger was real and great. As described by this source, See PRESIDENT, A7, Col. 7

PRESIDENT—Fr. AI LBJ Briefs Leaders of Congress

There was a complete breakdown of authority in Santo Domingo, and Communists were on the scene and ready to exploit the revolt for their own purposes. They were well-trained Communists professional revolutionaries, according to the source, and would have known how to seize and hold the police powers and other levers of control.

Danger Confirmed

Foreign diplomats as well as United States agents confirmed the danger of a Red takeover, the source said, and



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told how President Johnson's timely action thwarted the Communists.

And so, it was contended, those who argue that a few dozen Communists could not take over a country of three and a half million show that they have a very feeble understanding of how well-organized and dedicated men can seize power in a situation of political and military breakdown.

Other points made by the Administration source were these:

An ~~Inter-American~~ force will have to remain in the Dominican Republic for a considerable period of time and it would be difficult to say how long.

Food Is Supplied

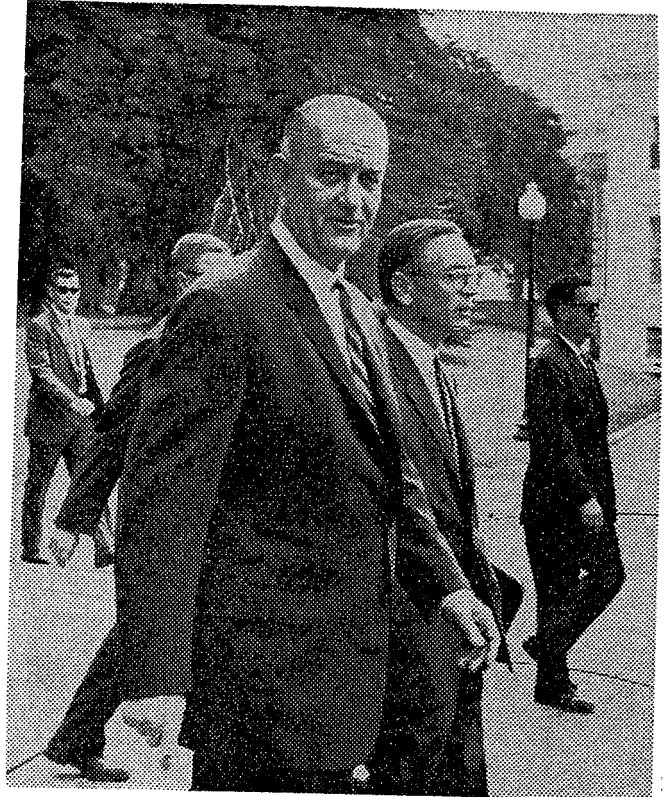
The intervention of the United States came at a time when hunger and the danger of epidemics were growing. Now this country and others are supplying food, and a restoration of the economy has begun.

The lights now go on in the evening in Santo Domingo, cars move, children walk the streets, and the temper of the country is one that prefers peace to war.

Meanwhile, though, it is necessary for U.S. troops and those from Latin America to serve as a "fire break" between the two forces that have been battling in Santo Domingo—the one commanded by Brig. Gen. Antonio Imbert Barrera and the one headed by Col. Francisco Caamano Deno.

Each side thinks it has all the right and that all the wrong is on the other side. This creates an impossible environment for the development of the kind of things the people of the Dominican Republic need—a viable and durable solution commanding widespread support.

It is a difficult task, one yet unfinished, and the Washing-



United Press International

President Johnson walks on the White House grounds with Arthur Goldschmidt, a United Nations administrator. Goldschmidt, an old friend of the President, stayed at the White House Wednesday night, and briefed Mr. Johnson on a recent meeting in Bangkok at which plans for the Mekong River development were discussed.

ton view is that in the end it is one that will have to be solved by the Dominican people themselves.

Sen. Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois, Republican leader of the Senate, heard special

assistant Bundy talk at the White House briefing. Asked later if he thought there would be a settlement in the Dominican Republic, Dirksen said: "It's in the mill. It's moving in that direction."