



## WASHINGTON REPORT FBI Did Job During Dominican Crisis

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*Editor's Note: The following views are those of the authors and are presented here to give readers a variety of viewpoints. The Tribune's opinions are expressed only in editorials.*

Critics of the FBI's surveillance of the Dominican Republic embassy are assailing one of the most successful national security operations in years.

Intelligence developed by the FBI during the 1965 Dominican crisis is authoritatively credited with undermining the Communists' attempted seizure of control.

One high-placed official, who closely advised President Johnson at the time, termed the FBI's day-to-day reports the "lifeblood of U.S. negotiations and policy." Throughout the tense Dominican crisis the FBI kept the White House fully informed of all the Communists' plans and movements.

The agency's information was so accurate and detailed that at the peak of the crisis, the President ordered Director J. Edgar Hoover to extend his intelligence operations to the Dominican Republic.

Twenty-one FBI agents, including 11 espionage specialists, were immediately flown to Santo Domingo. Other agents were dispatched to Puerto Rico to keep a close watch on former President Juan Bosch and his lieutenants.

Bosch's covert dealings and discussions with rebel leaders, among them known

Communists, were reported to Washington almost as soon as they took place.

Details of this dramatically effective intelligence operation must remain secret for security reasons, but the crucial importance of the FBI role was revealed by Director Hoover.

Testifying behind closed doors before a House Appropriations Subcommittee, Hoover said:

"The role played by the FBI during the Dominican crisis has been most significant. We developed and disseminated to top officials of the government voluminous intelligence data of the highest quality, concerning activities of key Dominican personalities who had the potential to influence the outcome of the crisis which began April 22, 1965.

"Intelligence developed which at the peak of the crisis was described by a key U.S. official as the 'lifeblood' of U.S. negotiations and policy, has enabled us to keep the intelligence community well informed concerning a number of crucial points, thereby enhancing this country's efforts in the establishment of law and order in the Dominican Republic."

Rep. John Rooney, D-N.Y., committee chairman, raised the question of the FBI's use of wiretapping in national security cases.

"The use of wiretaps is highly restricted with a tight

central control," replied Hoover. "Each must be authorized in advance and in writing by the attorney general. All those in operation are in connection with matters in which the internal security of the country is involved."

Both Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-N.Y., and Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach, when they were attorney general, approved the FBI's surveillance of the Dominican embassy — although neither has volunteered this information either to the courts or the press.

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