

On August 10, 1966 the three members of the Ad Hoc Committee sent to the strife-torn Dominican Republic by the Organization of American States were honored in a Farewell Review in Santo Domingo. *The three were selected by the Org of Am. States to serve as a diplomatic mediation committee between the various factions in the Dominican disturbance.*

The Reviewing Officer was the Commanding General of the Inter-American Police Force, Brazilian Division General Alvaro Braga. He arrived at the ceremony in the company of the United States Ambassador to the ~~Organization of American States~~ ^{OAS}, and Ad Hoc Committee member, Ellsworth Bunker. Both were greeted by ~~Brigade~~ Brigadier General Robert R. Linvill, Commanding General, USFORDOMREP.

Prior to honoring the committee members, they and the two generals trooped the line of IAPF units. These included Brazilian, Honduranian, and Nicaraguan members of the Latin Brigade plus several United States units.

General Braga presented each of the committee members with a certificate of achievement marking the completion of the job for which they were sent when trouble broke out in the Republic in April of 1965. The committee members were (in order of their certificate presentation): Illmar Peno Marinho, Brazil; Ambassador Bunker; and Ramon de Claremont Duenas, El Salvador.

Ambassador Bunker ~~delivered~~ spoke in behalf of the committee members in expressing their appreciation for the honors presented them. Ambassador Bunker, ^{He was selected for the post by} ~~who~~ has held the post since January of 1964, ~~was picked by President Lyndon Johnson~~ ^{was picked by President Lyndon Johnson}. He is former Ambassador to India, Argentina, Italy, and US delegate to the United Nations General Assembly ~~xxxx~~ and OAS Chairman. He also served for seven months as mediator between the Netherlands and Indonesia over West New Guinea.

The ceremonies would up with the IAPF troops passing in review. Right behind them, helicopters of the 283rd Aviation (Army) Company staged a fly-by with each helicopter trailing colored smoke. And despite a semi-cloudy day, members of the Army Parachute Team staged a demonstration in precision parachuting, hitting ~~ax target~~ close to a target placed in front of the reviewing stand.

On the 1st of October, 1966 a small contingent of Marines ~~xxx~~ landed in the western part of the Dominican Republic. Their arrival was a mere nine days after the ~~xxxx~~ removal of the Inter American Peace Force whose establishment had been spearheaded by 400 marines ~~sent~~ into the republic to protect American lives during the 1965 Dominican crisis.

But this small contingent of Marines came only with ~~empty~~ ^{carrying} helicopters ~~carrying~~ ^{doctors, medicine, and food.} They landed at Barahona and their mission was one of mercy....to deliver clothes, food, medicine, doctors to the people of the Barahona peninsula. Their homes, their crops had been strewn about the countryside...many of them had ~~died~~ died in the fury of the Great Hurricane Inez.

Inez struck the Barahona peninsula on the morning of September 29. The wanton whiplash of her 175 mile an hour winds flattened whole villages...killed 42 persons in one small town alone...tore up bridges...washed out seaside roads....left orderly plantations a ~~disheveled~~ ^{ruined} mess.

The Dominican Republic shares its ~~national~~ island with Haiti and both suffered the wrath of Inez. ~~Inez~~ The hurricane was headed northwest when she struck Hispaniola Island. Her marauding ways took her straight up the aptly named "Valley of Death" where hurricanes have almost become a way of life.

The "Valley of Death" extends from the ~~eastern edge~~ ^{town} of the Barahona peninsula in the Dominican Republic, ^{150 miles} diagonally northwest to the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. ^{900 - 2,000 on south coast of Honkey.} ~~The "Valley" in October 1954, the "Valley" in October 1954, the "Valley" in October 1954,~~ In October of 1954, Hurricane Hazel, travelling a course only slightly south of Inez', struck the Haitian Tiburon peninsula killing some 300, leaving 100,000 homeless. In October of 1963, Hurricane Flora, again on roughly the same route, killed an estimated 4,000. In 1964, October brought Hurricane Cleo, packing 140-mile an hour winds, killed 124 in one city alone. No hurricane disasters in 1965, but 1966 brought Inez with 175 mile an hour winds.

Inez' damage is still being calculated. Estimates of the dead in the Dominican Republic expect the toll to pass 200. Crop damage is said to be near 12 million Dominican dollars.

Two days after Inez struck Hispaniola, the US Boxer stood off the Barahona peninsula. ~~The Marines and their helicopters were sent into both nations, concentrating first on the Dominican Republic, shifting the emphasis on the 4th ~~to Haiti~~ of October to Haiti.~~

She was there at the ~~last~~ request of Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer who had asked for the helicopters ^{and additional supplies.} to help in bringing food and medicine into areas unreachable over storm-racked roads. The offer of US assistance, and the plans for implementing that assistance, had been formulated and offered to President Balaguer by the US Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, the Honorable John Crimmins. *Ambassador Crimmins himself visited the area for personal conference with officials*
Once the official request had been made, the Marines and their ^{about plans for the relief work.} helicopters were sent into both of the islands nations. The emphasis of more helicopters was placed on the Dominican Republic first, but was shifted on the 4th of October to Haiti.

The US Military Assistance Advisory Group in Santo Domingo dispatched a number of Officers and Enlisted Men to the Barahona airport where a communications site was established. The helicopters were placed at the disposal of MAAG Chief, Marine Colonel Henry V. Joslyn, who ~~directed~~ coordinated the activities of the several groups involved, including military and civilian.

Medical evacuations were made, but mostly by the Dominican Air Force. To the US Marines fell the task of reaching those communities who were badly in need of broader medical attention, such as vaccinations, food, water, and clothing.

= The first order of business was a survey of the damaged areas. Flying in twos, the helicopters, often bearing Col Joslyn, headed into the damaged areas, landed on beaches, in church yards, anywhere possible to reach the village people and determine their needs. Often, the helicopters were the towns only contact with the outside world.

Once a determination of immediate needs had been made, deliveries began and soon other groups, both US and Dominican, were involved. US ~~donated~~ AID food such as wheat and rice already in the Dominican Republic was carted to the helicopter pad for delivery. ~~The Dominican Army furnished military huge military tents as temporary homes for the homeless hundreds.~~ The USS Boxer, equipped for such eventualities, supplied, on the 2nd of October ~~for example~~ alone, 42,000 pounds of water, food, medicine, etc; medical personnel teams, and over 200 personnel to aid in the distribution of the medical supplies.

USAID supplied bags of wheat, rice, salt and other basic foods already on hand in the country. By the 3rd of October, AID had contributed some 38,000 pounds of food. And after a total assessment of the situation, plans call for AID to give full assistance in ~~housing~~ reconstruction of housing and various ~~plant~~ processing plants.

Other US based groups include the Food for Peace group which contributed stores on hand. And the Peace Corps, some of which were at work in the area when L₁ez struck and whose work only increased with the passing of the storm.

The Dominican military contributed heavily to the overall effort. They provided medical teams consisting of one doctor and three or more medics. Flown ^{aboard the Marine helicopters,} into disaster-struck villages, these medical teams accomplished preventative vaccinations against disaster-bred epidemics.

The Dominican Boy Scouts and Civil Defense Volunteers were in evidence in many places helping ~~with medical evacuations~~ medical actions such as evacuations. ~~The Dominican government~~

By the 4th of October, ~~firm figures were not available despite~~ an official estimate of 3/4 of a million dollars in damage, not including the agricultural crops, had been made. ~~And by that time, the concerted effort to bring dependent areas~~ President Balaguer had appointed a local committee to co-ordinate further distribution of foods and other aid. The US military aspect, the sudden and urgent need for it having slowed, began ^{clean-up} phasing out of the operation. ~~And by that time~~ That suddenly organized effort which had distributed over 42-thousand pounds of food...12-thousand pounds of medicine....and helped in ~~over~~ ⁵⁰⁰ thousand vaccinations....an impossible job without the Marines and their helicopters....began closing down operations as the USS Boxer sailed for Haiti to shift the emphasis.

On the 3rd of October, President ~~Frang~~ Balaguer paid a personal visit to several communities in the disaster area. At each stop, the President met with local official, determining personally that all needs were being met, listened to complaints, inspected food distribution and cleanup progress.