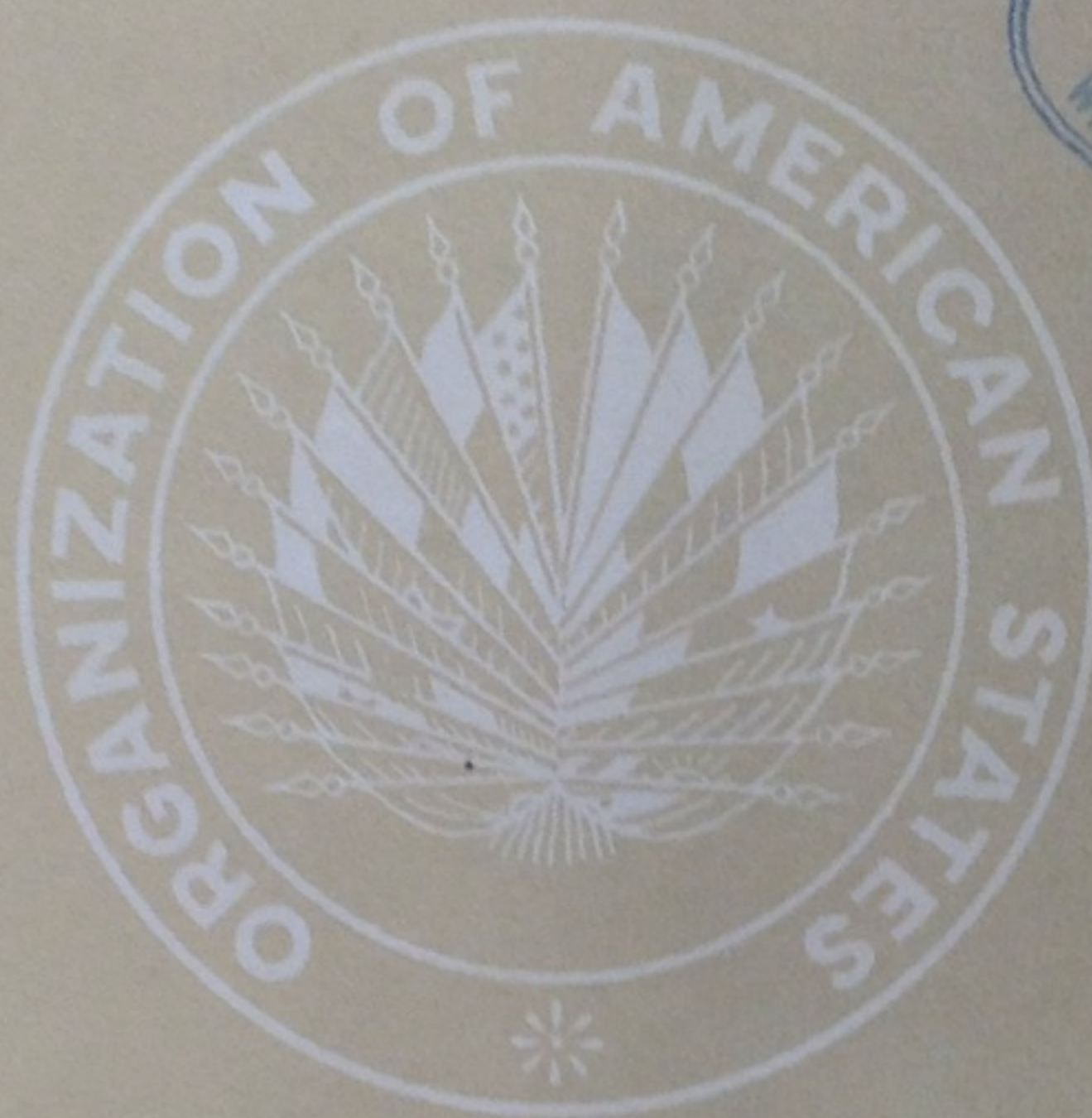
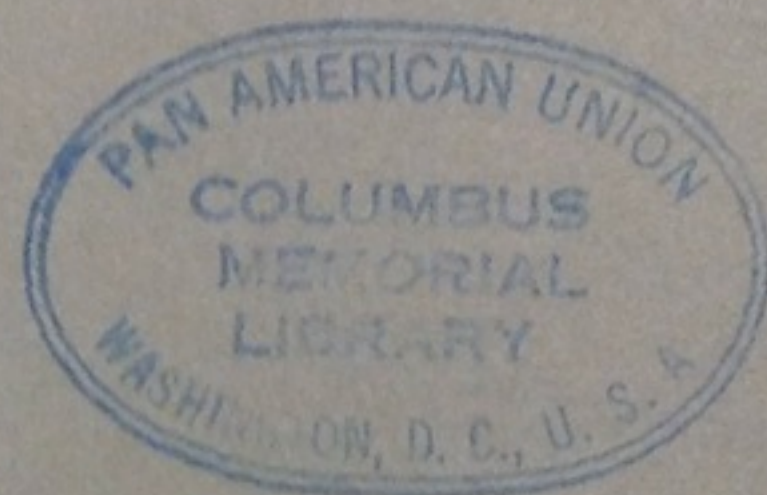


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# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



*Annual Report*

OF THE

SECRETARY GENERAL

# 1966

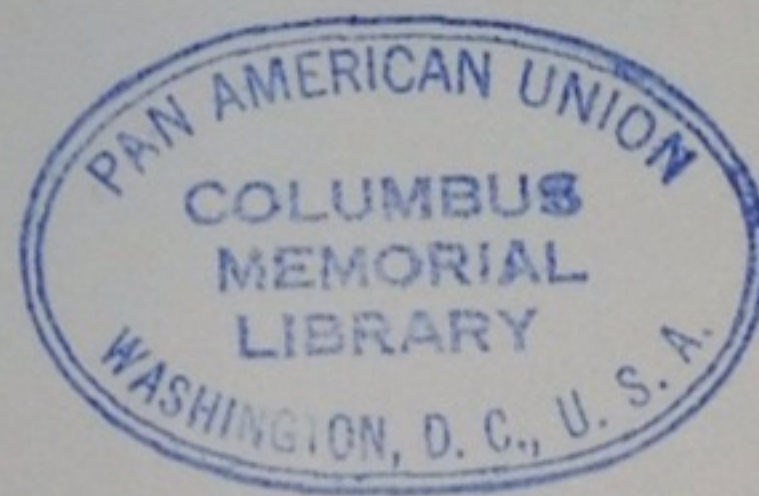


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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Fiscal Year

1965-1966



PAN AMERICAN UNION  
General Secretariat of the Organization of American States  
Washington, D. C.



On August 27, the Representative of the Commission successfully arranged for the release of the remaining political prisoners from the prisons of the two established governments. On August 31, the Constitutional Government handed over 108 prisoners at Ozama Fortress, all members of the National Police. On September 2 and 3, the Government of National Reconstruction turned over to the Commission 81 prisoners from La Victoria Penitentiary, simultaneously releasing 18 sailors held on Beata Island.

The installation of the Provisional Government marked a new stage in the situation of human rights in the Dominican Republic with the entry into force of the Institutional Act, which provides in Article 51 for the presence of the Commission in the territory of that country in order to protect human rights until the installation of the administration-elect on June 1.

The electoral campaign in the Dominican Republic began on March 1, 1966, and the Commission placed special emphasis on rights affecting the voting process. The Representatives of the Commission visited the courts and observed the return to due legal process, respect for the right to free expression of thought, etc.

The Commission successfully negotiated the transfer of certain military leaders from the interior who, according to denunciations received, were interfering with the normal course of civil law.

The Commission also noted certain outbreaks of terrorism, which declined considerably during April and May.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Fourteenth Session, the Commission held a meeting in the Dominican Republic from May 28 to June 2, 1966, which was attended by Dr. Manuel Bianchi, Mrs. Angela Acuña de Chacón, Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de Abranches, and Dr. Daniel Hugo Martins. It informed the Provisional Government and the leaders of the political parties that it was in session in the capital and was ready to hear any denunciation of acts violating human rights, especially infringements of the right to vote. It visited the polling places on election day, observing normal development of the voting process.

At the conclusion of the elections, the Commission issued a press release stating its satisfaction with the total absence of infringements of human rights. The Commission remained in the Dominican Republic until President-elect Joaquín Balaguer took office on July 1, 1966.

On July 6, the Commission considered its mission in the Dominican Republic to be concluded.

## SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION

As in earlier years, the Secretariat has continued to provide technical and administrative services to the Commission. Pursuant to the Statute of the Commission, the Secretariat is part of the staff of the Pan American Union.

Until February 1966, the Secretariat of the Commission formed part of the Codification Division of the Department of Legal Affairs of the Pan American Union. However, on February 8, it was constituted as a specialized functional unit, pursuant to Executive Order 66-1 implementing Resolution XXII.7 of the Second Special Inter-American Conference.

During the period covered by this report, the Secretariat prepared the summary minutes and reports for two regu-

lar sessions and one special session. It performed technical and administrative services during meetings held by the Commission at headquarters in the Pan American Union and on visits to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay.

The Secretariat prepared the following documents:

Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on its Action in the Dominican Republic.

Report on Political Refugees in the Americas and a Supplement.

Report Presented by the Commission to the Second Special Inter-American Conference.

Compilation of Documents of the European Commission on Human Rights.

Comparative Study of the Draft Conventions on Human Rights of the Inter-American Council of Jurists, the Government of Uruguay, and the Government of Chile.

Confidential Reports by the Representatives of the Commission in the Dominican Republic.

During the year, the Secretariat processed more than 700 communications and complaints of alleged violations of human rights, facilitating the work of the Commission, and was entrusted with: (a) preparation of the program for celebration of the International Human Rights Year in 1968; (b) preparation of documentation for study by the Commission of the Draft Inter-American Convention on Human Rights; and (c) preparation of a draft annual report on the progress of human rights in the American countries.

## ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE TECHNICAL MISSIONS ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

The Commission's Secretariat provided advisory, technical, and administrative services to the technical assistance missions on electoral matters as requested by the Governments of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Bolivia.

### 1. Mission to Costa Rica

In response to the request communicated on January 6, 1966, by the Government of Costa Rica to the Secretary General of the Organization for a group of observers to witness the elections to be held in that country on February 6 of the same year, the Secretary General arranged to send a Technical Assistance Mission on Electoral Matters composed of Drs. Víctor F. Goytía, Justino Jiménez de Aréchaga, and Henry Wells.

On February 9, the Mission transmitted its report to the President of the Republic, Mr. Francisco J. Orlich, who subsequently authorized publication of the document.

In that report, the Mission not only referred to the elections, but also made certain recommendations designed to improve electoral legislation and administrative organization. The Mission concluded that the Costa Rican people had undoubtedly achieved such a high level of political maturity that the only further development to be expected was the progressive consolidation of that country's constitutional system. The Mission also suggested that the Organization of American States should publicize the example of Costa Rica to encourage emulation by other



countries of our regional community that have not yet established procedures for consulting the wishes of their citizenry that are as highly evolved and as fully in accordance with democratic principles as those prevailing in Costa Rica.

## 2. Mission to the Dominican Republic

On November 19, 1965, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic requested, on behalf of his government, that the Secretary General of the Organization lend "the cooperation of the Organization of American States in the preparations for, and process of, the elections foreseen for the return of the country to constitutional normality." In response to this request, the Organization appointed a Technical Assistance Mission on Electoral Matters composed of Messrs. Eduardo Arroyo Lameda, Richard M. Scammon and Juan Pedro Zeballos to advise that government on the preparation and process of the elections scheduled on June 1, 1966.

On January 27 the Mission transmitted its report directly to the Provisional President, Dr. Héctor García Godoy, who authorized its publication.

Subsequently, on March 3, the President requested the collaboration of the Secretary General of the Organization in again sending that Mission to the Dominican Republic for a longer period extending through the electoral campaign and the elections themselves. The Mission returned to the country in mid-March and remained there until after the elections. During its visit, it submitted a second report to the President, who again authorized publication.

In the documents mentioned above, the Mission made a series of observations regarding the legal provisions in effect with reference to the electoral process. The conclusions of the Mission are contained in the second report and read as follows:

1. From what we have learned, the electoral administrative organization is acting efficiently in the preparations for the June 1 elections. Certain problems facing the election authorities, stemming from defects existing in the present system, as we see it, are being studied with professional zeal by the Central Election Board, which is exclusively responsible for the administration of the electoral process.

2. We are able to state that the guarantees established by law and in the Institutional Act, which are designed to enable the parties to exercise their essential freedoms and rights in seeking popular support in the political campaign, are being satisfactorily observed.

3. Provisions have been adopted to keep the police force from interfering illegally in the voting process. While this is not the time to do so, nor does the Mission have sufficient

information on which to base a categorical statement in this respect, it may be said that signs point to the adoption of complementary measures to ensure that there will be no interference by that force in the election preparations or in the voting itself.

## 3. Elections in the Dominican Republic

On April 28, 1966, the Provisional President of the Republic, in a note to the Secretary General of the Organization, said that he would view with pleasure a visit to the Dominican Republic by outstanding persons from various countries of the hemisphere to witness and observe, in an individual capacity, the elections of June 1.

The Tenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, for its part, at a meeting held on May 11, 1966, authorized the Secretary General to extend the corresponding invitations on behalf of the Dominican Government. Accordingly, distinguished individuals of the hemisphere were invited to attend, witness, and observe those elections. On June 2, the group of observers presented its report directly to the Provisional President, who authorized its publication.

In that report, the rapporteur, Dr. Sebastián Soler, expressed the general view of the Mission as follows: "we firmly believe that we have been witnesses to an outstanding act of democratic purity that is a credit to the political and election authorities, to the authorities of the participating political parties, and above all, to the Dominican citizenry, whose spirit, while saddened, expects so much from a final return to peace for the republic."

## 4. Technical Mission to Bolivia

On June 7, 1966, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Col. Joaquín Zenteno Anaya, requested that the General Secretariat of the Organization send an appropriate group of individuals to Bolivia as observers to witness the elections on July 3.

The note sent by the Bolivian Foreign Minister stated the government's firm determination to provide the electoral process with the broadest possible civil guarantees as stipulated by the Constitution and the laws of Bolivia and to ensure a climate of maximum decorum and legitimacy for that democratic process.

In reply to this request, the Secretary General, on behalf of the Bolivian Government, invited distinguished persons of the Americas to witness and observe those elections in an individual capacity.

# VI. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

## SECRETARIAT SERVICES

### 1. Inter-American Council of Jurists

The Codification Division of the Department of Legal Affairs published two volumes containing the summary

minutes and documents of the Fifth Meeting of the Inter-American Council of Jurists (CIJ-84) and, pursuant to its Resolution II, compiled in a document various opinions, reports, and studies on the possibility of revision of the Bustamante Code for distribution to the governments of the member states.