

November 21, 1960

The Honorable Manuel Aristaguieta  
Consul General of Venezuela in Miami  
904 Ingraham Building  
Miami 33, Florida

My dear Mr. Aristaguieta:

As per our recent discussions, this is the letter you have suggested that I prepare in order to provide you with the fullest possible information. We understand that you wish to forward same to His Excellency, President Romulo Betancourt.

The basic objective we seek is very simply stated: peace in the Caribbean and united action against the further expansion of communism in that vital area. There is no other intent, there is no money involved, no one is looking to get paid for anything, and if some sort of understanding can be reached between Venezuela and the Dominican Republic which will then result in progress toward the stated objective (above) the task at hand will then be accomplished.

We do not know what sort of an understanding can be reached between these two republics. We are fully aware of President Betancourt's position which will make it extremely difficult for His Excellency to even consider necessary negotiations. Our hope is that he will come to the conclusion that the objectives involved are sufficiently important -- even vital -- to cause him to undertake such ways and means at His Excellency's disposal to eliminate the tense situation that exists between his nation and the Dominican Republic. Should His Excellency find it possible to do so, it is our opinion that he will have made a most important contribution to the security of the Latin American theater which most certainly includes the United States.

This company has no official position in this matter, but we would like to help in every way that we can if invited to do so by His Excellency. Nor is it implied that the United States government is involved in any manner whatsoever with either this suggestion, or such negotiations which might follow.

Since such negotiations are properly the responsibilities of the republics of Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, and no one else, we believe that this position of non-intervention by the government of the United States is precisely proper.

Our recommendations are as follows:

- (1) We believe the greatest danger in the Caribbean today (and in the rest of the world as well) is the growth of communism and the expansion of communistic influence.
- (2) Since communism makes greatest progress in areas of unrest and disagreement -- either internally, or between nations -- we believe that everything possible should be done to eliminate disturbance between all republics of the Caribbean regardless of the causes in order that a united front may be achieved to halt communism's relentless drive.
- (3) Since such a situation exists between the Republic of Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, we believe that all possible effort should be exerted to eliminate it if His Excellency finds it possible to do so.
- (4) We recommend that the area of agreement be limited to a contractual agreement which will guarantee complete non-interference of one of the governments in the affairs of the other, mutual respect for non-aggression, elimination of verbal attacks one against the other, prevention of sponsored intervention of any kind, and so on. (We doubt that His Excellency would look with favor on an all-embrasive agreement with the Dominican Republic since such negotiation would be so terribly complex and time-consuming that the objectives desired would be lost through delay.)
- (5) We do not suggest consideration of trade agreements, endorsement of the government of the Dominican Republic by the government of Venezuela, mutual friendship, or anything of that type. We simply suggest that an area of understanding might be reached whereby both governments involved can cease to be concerned about the other, and so that both can direct their attention to their implied desire to combat communism wherever it may be found in Latin America, and particularly in the Caribbean area.

At this point, we wish to make it clear that we have not referred this matter in any way whatsoever to the government of the Dominican Republic, nor will we do so unless requested to take that step by His Excellency, President Romulo Betancourt.

Since His Excellency will most certainly wish to know the background of our interest, we take this opportunity to so state it.

First, as citizens of the United States who believe fervently that communism is our greatest danger, we would do anything within our power to resist its expansion.

Four months ago, we were approached by a small group of influential citizens of the United States who wished us to make a study of the Dominican Republic and to recommend ways and means whereby that country could be converted peacefully into a democracy without danger of communism taking over. These leaders made the arrangements with the Dominican Government which agreed to underwrite exactly \$20,000.00 for that purpose. To this date, we have actually spent some \$12,000.00 in this endeavor, and we have approximately two more months left in the contractual period after which we have no further relationship with that government.

I regret that we cannot identify the citizens of the United States who are involved, because they would impress His Excellency with their position and prestige. I am prevented from doing so simply because they prefer to remain anonymous at this time, but there will be a day when they will give me their permission to identify them.

Of course, there is no obligation incumbent upon His Excellency to rely on our office for what service we may provide in this endeavor, and he may have some other method he wishes to employ for the purpose. We can only state that we would be very proud to be involved in such a matter, and that we would expect no compensation whatsoever other than the satisfaction of having served in some small way in the accomplishment of the so-important objective.

Should His Excellency care to inform us, through your good offices, as to his desires in this matter, we will be pleased to convey his instructions to the Dominican Republic, or to proceed in whatever manner he may prescribe.

I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your interest and for your most capable guidance in this matter. We will await your further advice with anticipation.

Sincerely yours,  
VENN, COLE AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

by: Robert G. Venn  
President