

DIARY

August 18, 1961

Yesterday I called Allen Dulles regarding a visit I had a couple of days previously from a Mr. Claude Levesque. Mr. Levesque and I had chatted about a number of subjects, including reminiscences of war days. The one thing that he stressed was his conviction concerning American opportunities in the Dominican Republic. He believes that the new President of that country is a pretty good individual and apparently oriented toward us. He urges America to provide some kind of concrete help at once, as an indication of our interest in that country and of our hope that free representative government can be revised and sustained there. He believes if we do not provide some economic help, we could get another Castro on our hands. I passed this information, which I cannot possibly evaluate, to Allen Dulles, who stated that one of his subordinates had already interviewed Mr. Levesque and that he (Dulles) will see the man in ten days or two weeks.

Allen Dulles and I agreed that Mr. Levesque is one of the champion name droppers of all times.

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Today, August 18, I had another call from Mr. Dulles. He told me that several of the officials deeply involved in the Berlin crisis had yesterday afternoon a conference with the President. The President has asked that I be given a joint briefing on the situation as it stands. It appears that the State Department, Defense Department and Mr. Dulles are to be represented. Mr. Dulles will inform Mrs. Whitman of the exact number to come up. In an effort to keep the matter secret the party is coming by chopper to my farm and are expected to reach there at 9:00 A. M. on Sunday, the 20th.

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