

Lyndon Johnson and the Dominican Intervention of 1965
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Transcript of Tape No. 1: How many people got killed down there?

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[Footnotes added]

Jim Murray: And in South Vietnam, the raids are still going on, the armed reconnaissance of the various routes. And one reconnaissance group located four PT boats, and they are attacking them now. One, probably, has been destroyed, and they're still going after the other three. And the Dominican Republic situation seems to be well in hand, as far as those forces opposed to the [Juan] Bosch group are concerned. They plan to have—they said they plan to have elections in three months. In the meantime, they'll have a military government.

And ... I guess that's about all, sir.

LBJ: How many people did we evacuate there?¹

Murray: There were about a thousand.

LBJ: Going to leave the others there?

Murray: Yes, sir. There was one small group in a place called La Ramona, but the embassy got in touch with them, and they said there was no need for them to be evacuated. So they stayed.²

LBJ: How many people got killed down there?

Murray: The press is saying around a hundred, but there's no definite figure yet.

LBJ: Have we got any more planes out in South Vietnam or North Vietnam?

Murray: Yes, sir, there are two more route armed reconnaissance missions scheduled over target at this time, now. I won't have reports on those for about another hour or so.

LBJ: What are they looking for? Trucks? Or have they got specific targets?

Murray: One has a bridge, a span of a bridge, to knock out. And the other ones are just route reconnaissance, looking for targets, trucks, and rolling stock, and so forth.

LBJ: Much obliged.

¹ From the Dominican Republic.

² La Ramona is about 60 miles to the east of Santo Domingo.

Murray: You're welcome, sir.