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Institution: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
File Number(s): Communications Nos. 1526 and 1545  
Session: Twenty-Sixth Session (October-November 1971)  
Title/Style of Cause: Haitian political refugees v. Dominican Republic  
Doc. Type: Decision  
Dated: 17 March 1972  
Citation: Haitian political refugees v. Dom. Rep., Comm. 1526 and 1545, Inter-Am. C.H.R., OAS/Ser.L/V/II/.27, doc. 11 rev. (1971)

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[1] Communications Nos. 1526 and 1545, dated April 15 and July 27, 1967, respectively, denouncing the arbitrary arrest of several Haitian political refugees in the Dominican Republic.

[2] The Commission requested the corresponding information from the Dominican Government in a note dated May 15, 1967, in accordance with Articles 42 and 44 of its Regulations.

[3] The Dominican Government, in a note dated June 14, 1967, supplied information on the legal status of the individuals mentioned in the denunciation, stating that they were being tried in accordance with the laws of the country for participation in activities against the public order.

[4] At its Seventeenth Session (October 1967), the Commission appointed a rapporteur who recommended that further information be requested from the Dominican Government on the proceedings being followed at that time against some of the refugees mentioned in that Government's note of June 14, 1967.

[5] The Commission approved this recommendation and sent a cablegram to the Government of the Dominican Republic on October 13, 1967; this request was repeated on April 19, 1969, March 6, 1970 and November 25, 1970, with no reply being received.

[6] At its Twenty-fifth Session (March 1971), and pursuant to the recommendation of the rapporteur of the case, Prof. Manuel Bianchi, the Commission decided to presume the occurrence of the acts denounced, invoking the provisions of Article 51 of its Regulations. However, on April 6, 1971, the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees informed the Commission that, according to information in that office as of April 1970, the competent authorities of the Dominican Republic had released the Haitian political refugees in its territory, without requiring that they leave the country; that in addition, Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic who wished to emigrate could so request freely before the Office of the High Commission, and that the only cases of Haitians arrested in that country would be for common crimes.

[7] At the Twenty-sixth Session (October-November 1971), the rapporteur presented a report on these communications, recommending that the dossier be filed.

The Commission approved this recommendation, and accordingly decided to file communications Nos. 1526 and 1545, without further proceedings.