The Quisqueyan

Newsletter to the U.S. Mission, Santo Domingo





nuary 25, 1943 ~ May 10, 1965

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT:

US Citizen Dave Schrecengost, May 2010, visits the plaque of his friend and teammate Lt. Charles Hutchinson which sits on Embassy grounds. Hutchinson was killed in 1965 during the US-led intervention of the Dominican Republic. Hutchinson known to his friends as "Hutch" was a 1964 graduate of West Point and a member of the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Hutchinson and Schrecengost attended Kittanning Sr. High School in Pennsylvania. Previously, Tucker Dooley, the uncle of Embassy Quisqueyan editor Christine Dooley, had inquired about the plaque. Mr. Dooley is a West Point classmate of Hutchinson's and describes him as a man of great warmth and humanity who to this day still evokes fond memories and great sadness for a young life cut down in its prime. During his visit Mr. Schrecengost was escorted by the Chargé d'Affaires Chris Lambert and DCM Mike Schimmel.



US-led Intervention in the Dominican Republic, 1965

After a period of political instability following the assassination of long-time Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1961, candidate Juan Bosch, a founder of the anti-Trujilloist Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), was elected President in December, 1962. His left-leaning policies, including land redistribution and the nationalization of certain foreign holdings, contributed to a military coup seven months later by a rightwing faction of the military. In 1965, the United States led an intervention of OAS countries in the midst of a civil war sparked by an uprising to restore Bosch and the 1962 constitution. Many American leaders feared at the time that a victory of the pro-Bosch "Constitutionalist" forces could lead to a Castro-like Cuban revolution in the Do-



Juan Bosch

minican Republic, though this issue is hotly debated even today. In 1966, Joaquin Balaguer defeated Bosch in an election to become president. (Source: U-S-History.com).

Most Dominicans do not agree the U.S. was correct to intervene in the Dominican Republic in 1965. The leader of the "Constitutionalist" forces who fought against U.S. troops and advocated the restoration of the 1962 constitution and the Bosch government, Francisco Camaaño, is today revered as a national hero. During the U.S.-led intervention, more than 3,000 Dominicans and 31 American servicemen died.