

March 24, 1967

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A move to renew the Sister City Program between Sarasota and the Dominican Republic capital of Santo Domingo has begun in that Caribbean country.

Dr. and Mrs. John Elmendorf, who visited the Dominican Republic recently, reported that they attended a dinner there which had as its purpose the reorganization of the Sister City Group in that country.

The Sister City Program between Sarasota and Santo Domingo was instituted formally in the spring of 1963 when both cities established official ties for the exchange of ideas and the recognition of mutual interests.

Julio D. Postigo, who was chairman of the Sister City Committee in Santo Domingo when it was organized several years ago, is again taking the lead to re-establish ties with Sarasota, according to Dr. Elmendorf.

The Santo Domingo group held a dinner meeting while Dr. and Mrs. Elmendorf were in that capital city and they expressed interest in reforming the exchange program.

In addition to Postigo, there were many of the original committee present, including several who had visited Sarasota in the summer of 1963. Among these were Isidro M. Santana, Plinio Feliz, and Alberto Hernandez.

The formal association of the two cities had to be recessed when internal troubles in the Dominican Republic erupted in strife in 1965. Before this interruption two groups of Santo Domingoans visited Sarasota and one group of Sarasotans toured Santo Domingo for several days.

-more-

Mrs. Elmendorf recently spent three weeks in the country under the auspices of the United States Department of State, visiting in various parts of the country.

Dr. Elmendorf flew there for several days to visit the three universities in the Dominican Republic and to survey other educational activities there.

Working with Dr. Postigo to renew the Sister City Association are Dr. Antonio Frias Galvez and Dr. Manuel Mallen. Dr. Ainsley Minor, the cultural affairs officer in the U. S. Embassy, is assisting them in this effort.

Dr. Elmendorf said that he is particularly concerned about the possibilities of educational exchanges plus the involvement of young people from Sarasota in some of the programs of the Dominican Republic.

He said that there already is one member of the group who wants to send his son to Sarasota for two months to learn English in exchange for a local youth who would live in his home for the same period.