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*Santo Domingo 2778  
3/10/67*

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SUBJ: PRD LEADER REJECTS POLICE ESCORT

1. PRESS TODAY REPORTS THAT PRD SECGEN JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ HAS REJECTED POLICE CHIEF NEY TEJEDA'S OFFER OF A POLICE ESCORT. TEJEDA'S OFFER, WHICH COMMUNICATED THROUGH PAPAL NUNCIO TO PENA GOMEZ AND THEN ANNOUNCED TO PRESS, WAS IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS OF RUMORS OF PLOT AGAINST PENA GOMEZ' LIFE. TEJEDA SAID HE UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PLOT BUT IN VIEW OF REPORTED RUMORS HAD DECIDED MAKE ESCORT OFFER AND WOULD EVEN ALLOW PENA GOMEZ PICK MEMBERS OF DETAIL.

2. IN ANNOUNCING HIS REFECTION OF OFFER, PENA GOMEZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TEJEDA'S INTEREST IN PROTECTING LIFE OF ONE OF PRD'S POLITICAL LEADERS. BUT, HE SAID, PERSONAL ESCORT WAS PRIVILEGE AND WHAT PRD WANTS IS SUFFICIENT PROTECTION FOR ALL DOMINICANS SO THAT IN FUTURE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT COMMIT AGRESSIONS AGAINST POLITICAL LEADERS AND COMBATANTS OF REVOLUTION OF APRIL.

3. PENA GOMEZ ALSO SAID THAT RUMORS CIRCULATED BY "INTERESTED PERSONS" TO EFFECT THAT BALAGUER GOVT HAS OFFERED HIM A POSITION ARE NOT TRUE. HE ASSERTED THAT AS HE DID NOT TAKE JOB WITH BOSCH GOVT HE CERTAINLY COULD NOT TAKE POSITION WITH GOVT "THAT DOES NOT REPRESENT IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS" OF PRD.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INFO ON RUMORS OF PLOT AGAINST PENA GOMEZ AND ARE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE REPORTS TO REPORTORIAL FANCY DURING OTHERWISE QUIET WEEK. IT OF INTEREST TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT PENA GOMEZ STATEMENT IN THIS INSTANCE, AND PARTICULARLY IN HIS REFERENCE TO GOVT, COUCHED IN QUIET, ALMOST RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE.

EXEMPT. CRIMMINS

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