



Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO GPM 04, NSC 10, SP 02, SS 20, RSC 01, L 03, H 02, P 04, USIA 12, INR 07,

CIAE 00, NSAE 00, DOD 01, NIC 01, RSR 01 AID 28, PC 04, /116 W

F 151905Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5213
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS
STATEGRNC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2503

SUBJECT: NATION READY TO VOTE

SUMMARY: MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENDED OFFICIALLY AT 6 AM. THIS MORNING. STILL SCHEDULED, HOWEVER IS (PRESUMABLY NON-PARTISAN) RADIO-TV ADDRESS TO NATION TONIGHT BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER. CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) PREPARATIONS ALMOST COMPLETE AND ARE SAME AS IN 1966, ALTHOUGH BOARD'S EFFICIENCY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSCIOUSNESS SEEM HAVE IMPROVED. ALL MEDIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN GET-OUT-VOTE CAMPAIGN, ON BOARD'S AND THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. WEATHER TOMORROW UNCERTAIN, AS DROUGHT HAS FINALLY BROKEN AND HEAVY RAINS FELL YESTERDAY, INCLUDING IN CAPITAL. POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE REMAINED GENERALLY TRANQUIL AS OF THIS NOON, NOTWITHSTANDING INCIDENT NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION INVOLVING STONING

PAGE TWO RUESSD 2503 C O N F I D E N T I A L
OF PRSC CARAVAN IN CAPITAL LAST NIGHT AND WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SOME SHOOTING, AND DESTRUCTION BY UNKNOWN ELEMENTS OF ELEVEN BALLOT BOXES AND OTHER POLLING EQUIPMENT IN PAST FEW DAYS.

1. BALAGUER TOLD PRESS YESTERDAY ALL CITIZENS CONSCIOUS OF ELECTIONS' IMPORTANCE TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND FORECAST HEALTHY VOTE AND "COMPLETE FAILURE" OF ABSTENTIONISTS' POLICY. INTERIOR SECRETARY GOICO MORALES PLEDGED ELECTIONS OGLL BE "FULLY GUARANTEED" AGAINST VILENCE AND INTIMIDATION. UNIFIED ARMED FORCES/POLICE

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*Santo Domingo 2503
5/15/68*