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TELEGRAM

Pal 23-8 Dom Ref 4

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO SS 20, GPM 03, SP 02, SAH 03, P 04, USIA 12, NSC 10, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSA 02, DODE 00, O 02, OPR 02, OC 06, CCO 00, AID 28, PC 15, RSR 01, RSC 01, MM 01, 135 W

Santo Domingo 1656 1/31/68

R 311956Z JAN 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4549
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 650

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SUBJ: SUPPOSED DEATH PLOT SPARKS PRD WALKOUT FROM LA VEGA ASSEMBLY OF MUNICIPALITIES

REF: SD-1628

1. NOISE BOMBS, CHARGES OF ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLAN AND WALKOUT OF NINE PRD DELEGATIONS PROVIDED RATHER DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHERWISE PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ASSEMBLY OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS HELD JAN 26 - 29 IN LA VEGA.

(1)

2. SOME EIGHT HOMEMADE NOISE BOMBS EXPLODED JAN 26, BEFORE AND AFTER (BUT NONE DURING) PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S LATE MORNING VISIT TO LA VEGA FOR PURPOSE DELIVERING ADDRESS OPENING ASSEMBLY. ONE BOMB EXPLODED OUTSIDE HOME OF POLICE CAPTAIN, INJURING -- NOT CRITICALLY -- CAPTAIN'S DRIVER (SEE REFTTEL); SECOND DEVICE EXPLODED AT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT;

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OTHER BOMBS DETONATED HARMLESSLY VARIOUS PARTS OF CITY, INCLUDING CEMETERY. THIRTY-FIVE SUSPECTS (MOST REPORTEDLY PRD OR 14TH JUNE) DETAINED BY POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH BOMBING, BUT BY JAN 29 ONLY THREE HELD, TO BE CHARGED WITH EXPLODING BOMBS. ONE OF DETAINEES (LATER RELEASED) WAS LOCAL CORRESPONDENT OF EL CARIBE WHO, SOME WITNESSES CLAIMED, WAS BEATEN BY POLICE DURING QUESTIONING. PRD DEPUTY MIRIAM ABREU DE MINGUIJON, OF LA VEGA, PROMPTLY STATED PRD CANNOT GO TO ELECTIONS THIS YEAR, FOR "IF THIS IS HAPPENING NOW, WHEN CAMPAIGN HAS YET TO BEGIN, WHEN ELECTIONS COME IT WILL BE TO SEND THE PEOPLE TO THEIR DEATH, TO BE MASSACRED." POLICE STATEMENT SIMPLY SAID BOMBS WERE THROWN TO "TARNISH" ASSEMBLY AND "TO CREATE CONFUSION" IN CITY, WHERE "COMPLETE CALM" HAS EXISTED FOR MORE THAN YEAR.

3. DELEGATES OF NINE PRD-DOMINATED MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (THOSE OF LA ROMANA, SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, BARAHONA, PEDERNALES, GUAYMATE, RAMON SANTANA, LOS LLANOS, MONTE PLATA AND OBIEDO) STAGED WALKOUT OF ASSEMBLY JAN 27, FOLLOWING REPORT

BY MAYOR OF SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, ESCOTO VELOZ, CHARGING PLOT BY LA ROMANA AND GUAYMATE POLICE TO KILL MAYORS OF

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THOSE TOWNS. ESCOTO VELOZ SAID HE IN BAR WITH OTHER DELEGATES WHEN SUPPOSED POLICE IN CIVILIAN GARB, MISTAKING HIM FOR "MILITARY", ALLEGEDLY TOLD HIM THEY IN LA VEGA ON SPECIAL MISSION TO PERSECUTE AND "ELIMINATE PHYSICALLY" MAYORS OF LA ROMANA AND GUAYMATE. ESCOTO SAID ONLY INTERVENTION OF OTHER DELEGATES SAVED HIM AFTER SUPPOSED AGENTS HAD DISCOVERED THEIR MISTAKE. IN ANNOUNCING DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ASSEMBLY, ESCOTO SAID DELEGATES WOULD RETIRE IN CARAVAN, IN ORDERLY MANNER, BUT WOULD RESPOND TO VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE IF INTERCEPTED EN ROUTE. LA ROMANA MAYOR CESAR BREA CHARGED HE FORCED LEAVE CONCLAVE BECAUSE OF INFORMATION POLICE AGENTS IN CIVIL GARB AFTER HIM TO KILL HIM. THIS PART OF PLAN CONCEIVED IN LA ROMANA BY COL TADEO GUERRERO, HE SAID, AND BECAUSE MINIMUM SECURITY CONDITIONS NON-EXISTENT HIS DELEGATION ABANDONING CITY OF LA VEGA IN ORDER RETURN TO

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OWN LOCALITY, "WHERE WE CAN GUARANTEE OUR LIVES". BREA LATER STATED "PERSECUTIONS" OF PRD DELEGATES REINFORCED WHAT PRD ALREADY HAS SAID: THAT "NEITHER CONDITIONS NOR SECURITY EXIST (FOR PRD) TO GO TO TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS." PEDERNALES DELEGATION ALSO CHARGED IT THREATENED ON TWO OCCASIONS BY

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CIVILIANS, ONE OF WHOM TRIED ENTER DELEGATIONS'S HOTEL AND HAD TO BE OUSTED BY PEDERNALES, MAYOR BRANDISHING REVOLVER. BREA EARLIER HAD ASKED OTHER PRD DELEGATES TO LEAVE ASSEMBLY AT SAME TIME, BUT SEVERAL PRDERS STAYED, MANY OF THEM EITHER AS MEMBERS OF PR-DOMINATED DELEGATIONS OR DIRECTORATE OF DOMINICAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (LMD). AMONG THESE WAS ARES MALDONADO, PRESIDENT OF SANTO DOMINGO CITY COUNCIL, WHO SAID HIS DELEGATION WOULD REMAIN, IN HOPE ALL DIFFERENCES WOULD BE SMOOTHED OVER FOR GOOD OF COUNTRY.

4. ON SAME DAY SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND POLICE GOICO MORALES (WHO ALSO ATTENDED ASSEMBLY, BUT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR PRD WALKOUT), MADE STATEMENT DEPLORING PRD DECISION TO ABANDON MEETING WHEN THEY HAD BEEN OFFERED FULL GUARANTEES DURING STAY IN LA VEGA. GOICO SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED LOCAL POLICE COMMANDER TO INITIATE IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF PRD CHARGES, AND WAS SORRY PRD HAD NOT WAITED FOR RESULTS OF POLICE INQUIRY. (POLICE COMMANDER, LT COL LIRIANO, HAD REPORTEDLY OFFERED STAGE POLICE LINE-UP BUT OFFER WAS SPURNED BY COMPLAINANTS, WHO REFUSED IDENTIFY SUPPOSED MOLESTORS.) IN HIS STATEMENT, GOICO APPARENTLY REFERRED ONLY TO ALLEGED THREATS AGAINST

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PEDERNALES DELEGATES, FAILING TO MENTION SUPPOSED DEATH PLOT AGAINST LA ROMANA AND GUAYMATE MAYORS. MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SECGEN GOMEZ BERGES CHARGED PRD DELS' ATTITUDE INTENDED ONLY TO OBSTRUCT WORK OF ASSEMBLY, BUT SAID WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT ALTER ACTIONS OF REMAINING DELS. EARLIER, MOTION BY PR MAYOR OF BANI REPUDIATING PRD WALKOUT WAS WITHDRAWN "FOR GOOD OF CORDIALITY PREDOMINATING IN ASSEMBLY" (AND BECAUSE

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REPORTEDLY WAS FEARED APPROVAL OF MOTION WOULD INDUCE
REMAINING PRD DELLS TO LEAVE).

5. ELECTIONS JAN 29 FOR NEW LEAGUE EXEC COM LEFT OUT IN
COLD ALL FIVE PRD-DOMINATED MUNICIPALITIES WHICH FORMERLY
MEMBERS OF EXEC COMM (LA ROMANA, SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, SANTO
DOMINGO, BARAHONA AND PEDERNALES). ONLY PRD CITY COUNCILS
ON NEW DIRECTORATE ARE MONTECRISTI AND SABANA DE LA MAR.
ABOVE ACTION PROMPTED AES MALDONADO OF SANTO DOMINGO TO

THREATEN HIS OWN WALKOUT (FOR REMAINDER OF TERM ENDING MARCH)
STATING SANTO DOMINGO CITY COUNCIL, REPRESENTING MORE THAN
600,000 PEOPLE, MUST BE MEMBER OF LMD EXEC COMM, AND
CHARGING NEW ELECTORAL FORMULA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIONAL
DISTRICT'S FAILURE BE INCLUDED ON EXECUTIVE, LMD SEGEN

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REGRETTED SANTO DOMINGO LOSING ELECTION, BUT CLAIMED NEW
ELECTORAL SYSTEM "MUCH MORE EQUITABLE."

6. COMMENT: UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES OF ASSASSINATION PLOT
AND SUBSEQUENT PRD PERFORMANCE WOULD APPEAR HAVE BEEN DESIGNED
BY PRD HARD-LINERS TO DISCREDIT PR-MAJORITY LMD ASSEMBLY
WHILE AT SAME TIME CALLING ATTENTION AND GIVING CREDENCE TO
RECENT PRD CHARGES OF REPRESSION, PARTICULARLY IN EASTERN
REGION. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, EFFORT SEEMS HAVE BORNE LITTLE
FRUIT, WITH MAIN RESULT OF PRD WALKOUT BEING TO THROW EXEC COMM
ELECTION ALMOST ENTIRELY TO PR.

EXEMPT. CRIMMINS

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