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November 20, 1967

Dear John:

I have no means of judging how accurate this was, but must say
 it would. In reading about the flap over the return or no return of
 General Wessin, it occurred to me that I had failed to report to
 you on my conversation last month with Donnie Reid. I ran into
 him at a party Pancho Aguirre gave for Ambassador Jova and
 then went to dinner with him the following night.

Donnie told me he had no intention of returning to the DR
 under any circumstances until after next year's municipal elections.
 As he saw it, his presence would simply compound Balaguer's
 political troubles. Once in the country, no matter how hard he might
 try to stay out of things, people would immediately start coming around
 with the usual chisme and he would soon become the unwitting focus
 of another set of conspiracies. Donnie was most emphatic in saying
 that Balaguer must finish his term; another upheaval would end all
 hope for the future. He also insisted that he has kept well away
 from Wessin and plans to continue doing so.

As for his own future, Donnie's ambitions seem intact. He
 talked about going back sometime late in 1968 to put together a
 "new movement" with himself as the ultimate presidential candidate.
 These plans struck me as fairly vague and not very realistic, but I
 have no doubt Donnie will give it a try with the somewhat questionable
 assistance of Pancho Aguirre.

On the miscellaneous side, one remark Donnie made surprised
 me. He said that Reid-Pellerano was thriving as never before; that
 his own fortunes were now completely recouped, and that he had made
 more money in the last year than during any previous year of his life.

The Honorable
 John H. Crimmins,
 American Ambassador,
 Santo Domingo.

cc: ARA/CAR
 Mr. Long

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S: H W S: jmr.

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Santo Domingo
 To - Crimmins
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I have no means of judging how accurate this was, but must say it would be disappointing to find the automobile importers still getting rich at such a late date!

I doubt that this report adds to what you already know. I only send it to keep the record complete.

All the best,

Sincerely,

Harry W. Shlaudeman

S:HWB:jmr

cc: ARA/CAR
Mr. Long

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