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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

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ARJ-Miami
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file 3011

Origin

ACTION: COORDINATOR OF CUBAN AFFAIRS, MIAMI OFFICE
INFO: AMEMBASSY SANTOX~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ DOMINGO

Info:

LIMDIS

STATE:

FOR HENRY TAYLOR.

XX

REF: Santo Domingo 2119 and 2179.

1. Balaguer has been considering question of Wessin's QUOTE: exile END QUOTE and may decide to let him return in near future. Shortly before his departure (assuming we get adequate advance notice) you will be requested to explain to Wessin our position concerning any political activities he may be planning in DR.
2. Following guidance is for use upon receipt of such request from us:
3. Department of State has been informed that Wessin will return to Dominican Republic in near future and has requested you to call on him to explain our policy there in hope of avoiding any misunderstanding.
4. Since fall of Trujillo US has invested its blood and treasure to assist DR in effort to get on its feet and take rightful place

Drafted by:

ARA/CAR:GE^{own}:1k 4/9/68

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4688

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

ARA - Robert M. Sayre

Clearances:

ARA/CAR-C.D.Green

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place among democratic countries of this hemisphere. After numerous setbacks, hardship and sacrifice on part of all concerned, DR now has freely-elected government with good chance of completing its constitutional term. This has long been central objective of our policy towards DR.

5. Accordingly, we would strongly oppose any attempt to overthrow this Government.

6. Wessin has said on several occasions that he would not participate in any attempt of this kind. We trust that he will be able to hold to this attitude after he returns.

7. Frankly we believe some members of his party (Partido Quisqueyano Democrata) and perhaps some of Wessin's other followers would like to overthrow Balaguer and seek to undermine stability of constitutional Government to have opportunity for such adventure. Public statements of and posture of PQD, and/some of its potential allies such as Viriato Fiallo, have, on occasion, seemed more like threats to Government than like responsible criticism of opposition party acting in democratic tradition. Any hopes these people may have for mounting successful coup attempt are illusions, but their acts ~~and rumors they cause~~ could disturb climate of confidence necessary for continued development in DR. Wessin will, we hope, use his influence with all his followers to discourage

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golpista notions.

8. We do not mean to imply, however, that he and his followers should not participate in Dominican political life. PQD has been recognised as legitimate political party. But we hope that in pursuing their political objectives, Wessin and his followers will hew closely to strictly constitutional procedures.

9. If this is done, we believe there is real possibility Dominican ~~xxx~~ Republic can build on constitutional foundations established in past few years to emerge as stable democracy. We know that Wessin shares ^{this} ~~hxx~~ hope with us and recognises that good beginning which has been made may indeed be best chance in Dominican history for achievement of this goal.

10. Finally, it is our objective that Dominican people should have opportunity to choose their leaders in free and fair elections held in framework of continuing constitutional system. Wessin may be assured that US will not oppose or support any candidate. Our only interest in outcome, in the future as in past, is that choice of Dominican people be respected.

11. Rumors invariably circulate about our policy in DR, and we would hope that Wessin would be amenable to discussions with our Embassy from time to time after his return to avoid any misunderstanding in future.

12. FOR SANTO DOMINGO: Notify Dept. when you want approach to Wessin made.

RUSK

END.

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