



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS 70

INFO MM 010/071 W

R 022114Z FEB 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4574
INFO RUEOE/AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 656
0

Santo Domingo 1687
2/2/68

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1687

LIMDIS

SUBJ: QUESTION OF WESSIN'S RETURN

REF: STATE 103786

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ON JAN 30 AMB BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF WESSIN'S RETURN TO DR. BALAGUER SAID HE STUDYING MATTER, THEN ASKED IF AMB HAD ANY IDEAS. AMB REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER SELF CAPABLE OF MAKING JUDGMENT ON DELICATE AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE WHOSE COMPLEXITY IN TERMS OF PROS AND CONS HE FULLY RECOGNIZED. PRESIDENT AGREED PROBLEM DIFFICULT BUT WENT ON SAY WOULD PROBABLY PERMIT WESSIN RETURN AT AN "OPPORTUNE MOMENT" (HIS PUBLIC FORMULA) WHICH HE DEFINED TO AMB AS TIME OF "MAXIMUM STABILITY."

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PAGE 2 RUESSD 1687 C O N F I D E N T I A L
2. WE HAVE STUDIED QUESTION OF ADVISING PRESIDENT ON THIS MATTER VERY CAREFULLY SEVERAL TIMES. IT REMAINS UNANIMOUS VIEW INTERESTED ELEMENTS COUNTRY TEAM THT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR US TO RECOMMEND TO HIM DEFINITE COURSE OF ACTION BECAUSE OF VARIABLES WHICH BALAGUER HIMSELF HAS BEEN

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UNABLE ASSESS CLEARLY. DEPT WILL RECALL PRESIDENT PUT QUESTION TO GARCIA GODOY (SD-1108) WHO ALSO CONFESSED HE COULD NOT BE SURE WHAT WOULD BE BEST COURSE. DEPT MAY WISH GET CURRENT READING GARCIA GODOY'S THINKING.

3. OUR RECOMMENDATION IN SD-1508 FOR CONTINGENCY PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE CONTROLS ON WESSIN WAS MADE, OF COURSE, AGAINST POSSIBILITY BALAGUER WOULD COME DOWN IN FAVOR KEEPING WESSIN OUT OF DR AND WOULD ASK OUR ASSISTANCE.

GP3. CRIMMINS

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