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Wessinista Notes

Ambassy SANTO DOMINGO

Jan. 11, 1968

A-353, December 24, 1967 (Week 51)

Columnist Comments on Wessin's Plans

1. In his Listin Diario column of December 28, Pedro Alvaro BOBADILLA reported having received a message from ex-General Elias WESSIN y Wessin concerning the latter's future political plans.
2. According to Bobadilla, Wessin said he has no plans for immediate return to the Dominican Republic and is not involved in plots for the overthrow of the Balaguer Government; on the contrary, he earnestly supports the Balaguer Government and he considers it absolutely necessary, for the maintenance of the Dominican institutional system, that the Government complete the constitutional period for which it was elected. Nevertheless, Wessin declared that such support and conviction did not imply any abdication of his legitimate rights as a Dominican to live in the country and to aspire to the presidency of the Republic in the electoral future. Bobadilla said Wessin had indicated that, in fact, he will travel to New York soon to attend a meeting there of the Democratic Quisqueyan Party (PQD), on which occasion he will be named formally as president of the Party. (Presumably this would follow the expected legal recognition by the Central Electoral Board which has, however, not yet been forthcoming.)
3. Bobadilla concluded, from the above statements, that Wessin is resigned to remain in "diplomatic exile" for the

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present, awaiting the opportunity to make a triumphant reentry at the time the electoral campaign for the 1970 general elections officially begins. The columnist judges the ex-General's alleged decision to remain in exile until a more propitious moment as the correct one for the political aspirations which Wessin no longer denies. Bohadilla's view is that, if Wessin were to return to the country now, his popularity would burn up as rapidly as "shooting flares and skirishing firecrackers on Christmas Eve". He observed that Dominican history has shown that a forced exile operates in favor of aspirants to the presidency, conferring upon them an aura of martyrdom, citing the cases of Buenaventura Báez, Bosch and Balaguer.

New York Branch of PQD Replies to Embassy Statement

4. In a letter reported in El Caribe of December 29, the PQD's New York branch replied to the Embassy's press release concerning the PQD's deliberate distortion of the significance of registration with the U.S. Department of Justice under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (see airtel under reference). The thrust of the letter was to reiterate the PQD's previous assertions, citing the rich and varied semantical interpretations of "recognition" in the Spanish language. Upon being registered, the PQD claimed, "the existence of a political entity remains tacitly recognized as having fulfilled the necessary requirements to act in the territory of the United States of America." In a neat bit of journalistic treatment the Caribe reporter concluded his story by repeating the operative portion of the Embassy's press release.

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