



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04,

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAH 03, AID 28, NIC 01, EUR 15, PC 04,

IO 13, RSR 01, /146 W

R 202305Z MAY 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5246

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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SUBJECT: SCATTERED REACTIONS TO ELECTION OUTCOME

REF: SD 2535

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER TOLD PRESS THAT REFORMISTAS CAME THROUGH ELECTIONS "STRENGTHENED" AND DESCRIBED OUTCOME AS "WORST DEFEAT OF OPPOSITION". RESULTS, HE SAID, PROOF PRD DISCREDITED IN EYES PUBLIC. TAKING 1966 VOTE AS REFERENCE POINT (ALONG WITH OTHER COMMENTATORS), ASSERTED ONLY 382,000 PERSONS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS AND CLAIMED PRD

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STRENGTH HAD BEEN REDUCED TO THIS NUMBER "INCLUDING CIVICOS AND PQD MEMBERS". PRESIDENT SAID THERE WERE NOT MORE VOTES BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAINS IN CIBAO ON ELECTION DAY.

2. PRSC PRESIDENT CAONABO JAVIER CASTILLO TOLD PRESS THAT ELECTIONS WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL FOR HIS PARTY, HAVING QUADRUPLED ITS 1966 VOTE. JAVIER CLAIMED ELECTIONS DEMONSTRATED GROWING REPUDIATION GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS; HOWEVER, HE ADDED LOW VOTE COMPARED 1966 DUE NOT ONLY PRD ABSTENTION BUT ALSO LACK INTENSIVE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND FACT THAT FEWER PEOPLE VOTE IN MUNICIPAL THAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS. JAVIER ASSERTED PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S

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*Santo Domingo 2546
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PRAISE OF PRSC IN SPEECH BEFORE ELECTION "DETERMINED" PRSC DEFEAT IN SANTO DOMINGO. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID, PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS CONTRIBUTED TO PRSC GAINS IN INTERIOR.

3. SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS GENERALLY EXHIBITED SATISFACTION THEIR VOTE TOTALS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS SATURDAY NIGHT. HOWEVER, FELO FLORES, DEFEATED PRSC CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR SANTO DOMINGO, COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF BOTH SUPPORT AND MONEY, PRESIDENT'S PRE-ELECTION SPEECH, AND ALLEGED VOTE-BUYING BY REFORMISTAS.

4. MPD SECGEN MAXIMILIANO GOMEZ (COMMUNIST), CLAIMING THAT

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GREATER PROPORTION OF VOTERS ABSTAINED THIS YEAR THAN HAD VOTED FOR "CONSTITUTIONAL FORCES HEADED BY THE PRD" IN 1966, SAID THAT MASSES HAD USED ABSTENTION AS MEANS REJECTING SALE DOMINICAN SOVEREIGNTY TO NORTH AMERICAN MONOPOLIES AND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REPRESSION. GOMEZ SAID IT WAS MORE IMPERATIVE THAN EVER TO CONSTRUCT A CLANDESTINE COMMANDO FORCE TO JOIN TOGETHER IN ONE REVOLUTIONARY TORRENT ALL OF ABSTENTIONIST

5. PCD COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED THAT ELECTION SHOWS THAT MAJORITY DOMINICAN PEOPLE AGAINST BALAGUER GOVERNMENT AND THAT THOSE WHO DID NOT VOTE SHOWED THAT THEY DO NOT RECOGNIZE ELECTIONS AS WAY PROMOTE REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES.

6. MAY 20 LISTIN SAID ELECTIONS HAVE PRODUCED COLLECTIVE PRIDE AND A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN CAPACITY COUNTRY RESOLVE ITS POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FREE AND CIVILIZED MANNER. NACIONAL SUNDAY COMMENTED THAT IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION IS THAT FOR FIRST TIME IN DOMINICAN HISTORY, EVEN THOUGH CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME WAS SO DECISIVELY REPUDIATED, PEOPLE REMAIN INCLINED MAINTAIN IT IN POWER. FRIDAY CARIBE CONGRATULATED THE WINNERS AND EXHORTED THEM TO CONDUCT THEIR LABORS WITH HONESTY AND ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION. THE SAME DAY LA INFORMACION CALLED THE ELECTIONS A TRIUMPH FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE.

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