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# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

*Pal 14 Dom Rep*

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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, CU 04, AID 28, PC 04, RSR 01,  
/121 W

R 142357Z MAY 68  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5208  
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2495

SUBJECT: ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. UASD, PRSC AND ITS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ARM BRUC FORMALLY SET THEIR POSITIONS ON ELECTIONS IN LAST-MINUTE FORMAL STATEMENTS TO VOTERS PUBLISHED MAY 14.

2. UASD COUNCIL TOOK RHETORICAL PAINS TO ESTABLISH ITS CREDENTIALS AS NON-PARTISAN ADVISER ON ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR WITHOUT DIRECTLY ADDRESSING QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO VOTE. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF ITS "DUTY TO INTERVENE IN POLITICS", UASD IN EFFECT JOINED ABSTENTIONISTS AND CHARGED THAT MAY 16

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ELECTIONS DEVELOPING INTO"...PROCESS VITIATED BY INTIMIDATION, TERROR AND COERCION, BY TREACHEROUS AND UNPUNISHED CRIME, ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS INCARCERATION, TACIT DEROGATION OF LAW OF HABEAS CORPUS ... ETC". IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH CAUSE ABSTENTION OF PARTIES OF RIGHT, CENTER AND LEFT, WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, UASD NOTED ITS "DEEP ANGUISH AND GRAVE WORRY", AND STATED IT "SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATES POSSIBILITY THAT MAY 16 ELECTIONS COULD BE FIRST STATION ... TO VIA DOLOROSA OF NEW DICTATORSHIP".

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AMENDED MAXIM OF BOLIVAR TO EFFECT THAT, FOR ANY GOVERNMENT "WORSE THAN WEAKNESS IS VICE OF LETTING WORST CRIMES BE COMMITTED AND PUBLIC LIBERTIES BE SUPPRESSED IN ITS SHELTER", CONCLUDING WITH CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENTS WHO CREATE OR TOLERATE CONDITIONS IMPEDING FULL EXERCISE OF "RIGHT TO ELECT FREELY".

3. PRSC STATEMENT OUTLINED REASONS FOR VOTING ITS BALLOT, MAINTAINING PARTY'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION INTENDED PREVENT ONE-PARTY CONTROL OF NATION AND AMELIORATE THREAT OF DICTATORSHIP. CALLING ITSELF "AUTHENTIC" ALTERNATIVE TO GOVERNMENT, PRSC URGED VOTERS WHO WANT CHANGE TO ELECT NON-GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO MUNICIPAL BODIES, AND TO EXPRESS

PAGE 3 RUESSD 2495 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THEIR REJECTION AND DISAGREEMENT WITH "MISDEEDS CHARACTERIZING PRESENT GOVERNMENT", AND THEIR REPUDIATION OF PARTIES AND LEADERS WHO ARE DRAWING FURTHER FROM PEOPLE'S ASPIRATION" BY VOTING FOR PRSC CANDIDATES.

4. BRUC, ON OTHER HAND, CHARGED TOTAL LACK OF FREEDOM IN COUNTRY AND URGED ABSTENTION FROM POLLS, ALLEGING "REAL SOCIAL CHRISTIANS WILL NOT VOTE". (BRUC, WHICH BY VIRTUE ITS POSITION AT UASD AND OTHER REASONS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE "REVOLUTIONARY" THAN PRSC, PROBABLY OPTED FORMALLY DIVERGE FROM PRSC POSITION ORDER RETAIN ITS HARD WON CREDENTIALS AT UNIVERSITY).

5. APPARENTLY ACTING TO IMPLEMENT ABSTENTIONISTS' LINE, STUDENTS AND MUNICIPAL LABORERS OF UNCERTAIN POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED FIVE BALLOT BOXES AND OTHER ELECTORAL EQUIPMENT MAY 13 (LOCATED AT POLLING PLACES SAN ANTON MARKET AND BRAZIL, MIGUEL ANGEL GARRIDO, HONDURAS AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CAPITAL) AND EQUIPMENT FOR THREE OTHER POLLING PLACES AT A MUNICIPAL SUB-STATION. LABORERS ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LATTER INCIDENTS REPORTEDLY TOLD EL NACIONAL THEY INTEND REPEAT PERFORMANCES AT NUMBER OTHER MUNICIPALLY-CONTROLLED AREAS. (EQUIPMENT FOR TWO OTHER POLLING PLACES HAD BEEN DESTROYED OVER WEEKEND-SD-2482, PARA 3).

EXEMPT CRIMMINS

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