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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02460 110229Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO AID 28, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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SUBJECT: ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. CAMPAIGN GATHERING STEAM IN FINAL WEEEPN WITH INCREASING CONCERN DEVELOPING OVER HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL VOTE AND HOW MANY WILL ABSTAIN BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION ABSTENTION EFFORTS, APATHY OR OTHER REASONS. EL CARIBE MAY 10 FOUND VOTER INTEREST "RELATIVE--TO SAY IT KINDLY". AHORA MAGAZINE'S PRE-ELECTION ISSUE REFUSED PREDICT ANYTHING, STATING REPLIES TO ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING ELECTIONS MUST AWAIT RESULTS.

2. REFLECTING THIS CONCERN, VICE PRESIDENT LORA IN A NATION-WIDE RADIO-TV BROADCAST LAST NIGHT STRONGLY EXHORTED REFORMISTAS TO FLOCK MASSIVELY TO POLLS AND CONDEMNED PRD'S "HYPOCRITICAL" ABSTENTIONISM WHICH, HE SAID, "APPEARS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY AGREED

PAGE 2 RUESSD 2460 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
UPON WITH COUNTRY'S ANARCHIZED AND EXTREMIST GROUPS (PRESUMABLY PQD, UCN ET AL) AND INTENDED SERVE AS BASIS FOR FALACIOUS PROPAGANDA BOTH IN INTERIOR AND ABROAD" CONCERNING ALLEGED LACK OF ELECTORAL CLIMATE. TRUTH IS, LORA ADDED, THOSE GROUPS RECOGNIZE CATASTROPHIC EFFECT SMASHING DEFEAT AT POLLS WOULD ENTAIL FOR THEM. HOWEVER, HE WARNED, PRD AND OTHER ABSTENTIONISTS DO INTEND VOTE FOR OPPOSITION--AND, HE IMPLIED, DISSIDENT REFORMISTA--CANDI-

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 SANTO 02460 110229Z

DATES IN PLACES WHERE LATER ARE BELIEVED HAVE CHANCE OF VICTORY, REFORMISTAS SHOULD ALSO GUARD AGAINST ABSTENTIONISM BROUGHT ABOUT BY APATHY, OVERCONFIDENCE, OR DILATORINESS, HE CONTINUED. THIS UNPARDONABLE ERROR MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS. ALL REFORMISTAS AND THEIR PARTISANS MUST VOTE AND THUS PROVIDE DEFINITIVE PROOF OF NATION'S SUPPORT FOR BALAGUER'S EXEMPLARY ADMINISTRATION, LORA STATED, REMINDING ALL CITIZENS THAT ALTHOUGH, AS PRD HAS SAID, LAW DOES NOT PENALIZE ABSTENTION, OBLIGATION TO VOTE IS AN "IMPERATIVE LAW OF INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE." CONCLUDED BY CHASTISING REFORMISTAS FOR NOT WORKING HARD ENOUGH AND URGED ALL REDOUBLE EFFORTS IN FINAL DAYS CAMPAIGN.

3. REPLYING PRESS QUERY, BALAGUER MAY 9 CHARACTERIZED PRD ADVICE

PAGE 3 RUESSD 2460 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THAT ITS MEMBERS NOT VOTE AS "ANTI-PATRIOTIC AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC" AND URGED ALL CITIZENS TO VOTE, NOTED VOTING IS OBLIGATORY AND PROMISED ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN PEACEFUL AND NORMAL FASHION, ASSERTING GOVT HAS AVAILABLE MEANS WHEREBY TO GUARANTEE ORDER ON ELECTION DAY.

4. CARIBE REPORTED UNIFIED ARMED FORCES-POLICE COMMAND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO MAINTAIN ORDER MAY 16. RECALLED SECURITY FORCES ARE UNDER CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD'S AUTHORITY ON ELECTION DAY.

5. INOVRIOR SECRETARY GOICO MORALES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE MAY 9 REFERRING TO PLANS OF "CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES" TO PREVENT VOTING BY ENGAGING IN MANIFESTATIONS OR OTHER SIMILAR ACTS (AS ANNOUNCED BY PRD'S WASHINGTON DE PENAS--SD-2429), AND WARNING HIS DEPARTMENT "WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY MANEUVER BY (ABSTENTIONIST) POLITICAL PARTIES TENDING OBSTRUCT FREE AND NORMAL DEVELOPMENT ELECTORAL PROCESS." ADDED THAT ONLY PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS ABLE HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMIT.

6. MEANWHILE, CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (A) REMINDED SECURITY FORCES THAT ALL PERSONS OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN ELECTORAL PROCESS ARE FREE FROM ARREST UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS EXCEPT IN CASES OF DELICTO FLAGRANTE; (B) WARNED PUBLIC MEDIA OF THEIR OBLIGATION PROVIDE

PAGE 4 RUESSD 2460 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TELEGRAM

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PAGE 03 SANTO 02460 110229Z

ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH EQUAL TIME AT REASONABLE RATES (GOVT. RADIO-TV CHAIN MADE FREE TIME AVAILABLE TO ALL THIS WEEK); AND (C) CONFIRMED RED INK WILL BE USED TO MARK VOTERS' FINGERS TO PREVENT DOUBLE VOTING (PRSC HAD COMPLAINED RED INK WOULD PROVIDE REFORMISTAS WITH "PSYCHOLOGICAL" ADVANTAGE IN THAT THEIR BALLOT ALSO RED.)

7. ACTING ON PRSC COMPLAINT, POLICE CHIEF ALVAREZ ARRESTED (FOR TEN DAYS) AND TRANSFERRED POLICE CAPTAIN WHO OBSTRUCTED PRSC CARAVAN IN SANTO DOMINGO. LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIALY HAILED MOVE.

8. PRD AND COMMUNIST DOMINATED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (FUSD, FRAGUA AND UER), PCD, PSP, 14TH JUNE AND MPD HAVE URGENT VOTER ABSTENTION FROM 2NEW ELECTORAL FARCE." FRAGUA SCHEDULED MANIFESTATION TO REPUDIATE ELECTIONS AT UASD MAY 14. GP-3 CRIMMINS

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