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ACTION ARA 16

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

RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SAH 03, AID 28, PC 04, IGA 02, RSR 01,

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R 270002Z APR 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5089

INFO RUESOE/AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 771

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2345

SUBJECT: ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: SD-2325

SUMMARY:

1. ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS, APR. 24-26, HIGHLIGHTED BY VICE PRESIDENT LORA'S BRIEF NATIONALLY BROADCAST ADDRESS CALLING FOR REFORMISTA UNITY, PRSC DENUNCIATIONS OF STATE ENTERPRISE CONTRIBUTIONS TO PR CAMPAIGN CHEST, AND REITERATION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN THREATS WITHDRAW FROM CAMPAIGN.

2. IN WHAT IN EFFECT WAS REVEALING PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PR'S SO FAR LARGELY INEFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO BRING NUMEROUS REFORMISTA DISSIDENT GROUPS BACK INTO PARTY FOLD, LORA (FLANKED BY PR DEPUTY GUARIONEX LLUBERES) STRONGLY REMINDED ALL "GOOD REFORMISTAS" OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO VOTE FOR OFFICIAL PARTY CANDIDATES NOTWITH-

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STANDING FACT SUCH CANDIDATES MAY NOT BE TO EVERYONE'S LIKING. RETURNING FOR FIRST TIME TO THEME HE PUBLICLY EXPOUNDED TWO MONTHS AGO, LORA EMPHASIZED THAT PR WILL IN EFFECT BE SEEKING VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN BALAGUER ADMINISTRATION ON MAY 16, ADDING THAT PARTY BEING CALLED UPON TO PERFORM TASK OF "EXCEPTIONAL IM-

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PORTANCE" TO DR'S" INSTITUTIONAL PRESENT AND FUTURE." REFOR-
MISTAS MUST RALLY TO POLLS TO PROVIDE NATION WITH "IRREFUTABLE
PROOF THAT SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IN DR IS GUARANTEED," AND SO
DEFINITELY TO SILENCE "IMPOTENT CROWD OF IRRESPONSIBLE" ELE-
MENTS WHO WANT NEITHER PEACE NOR PROGRESS, LORA SAID. (COMMENT:
IN ADDITION REFLECTING WIDESPREAD VIEW HELD BY BOTH REFORMISTAS
AND OPPOSITION THAT COMING ELECTIONS ARE IN EFFECT PLEBISCITE
ON BALAGUER ADMINISTRATION, LORA'S BRIEF REMARKS -- WHICH WERE
IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED BY REFORMISTA DISSIDENT CANDIDATE IN CAPITAL
AS "IMPRUDENT AND LACKING IN POLITICAL VISION" POINTED UP REFOR-
MISTAS GROWING CONCERN OVER DISSIDENT GROUPS POTENTIAL EFFECT ON
THEIR PROSPECTS IN VARIETY MUNICIPALITIES II E.G., MOCA, HATO
MAYOR, SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS IN WHICH OPPOSITION CANDIDATES
RUNNING STRONG).

3. APR. 23, PRSC SET-OFF WHAT MAY BE POLITICAL SCANDAL OF SOME

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PROPORTIONS, WHEN IT CHARGED VARIOUS STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES OF
CORDE CONTRIBUTED RD\$125,000 TO REFORMISTA CAMPAIGN. QUERIED
BY PRESS, APR. 24, BALAGUER DENIED AUTHORIZING CONTRIBUTIONS AND
REFERRED QUESTION TO CORDE DIRECTOR GENERAL SUAREZ WHO, IN TURN,
PASSED BUCK TO ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS RESPECTIVE CORPORATIONS.
PRSC HAS CONTINUED PRESS ATTACK WITH DEMAND PARTY'S ECONOMISTS BE
PERMITTED AUDIT CORDE BOOKS AND, ACCORDING CAS SOURCE (HDC-4087,
SECRET/NORFORN), WITH GOOD REASON. LISTIN TOOK UP CRY WITH
EDITORIAL, APR. 26, DEMANDING "CATEGORICAL AND VERIFIABLE" DENIAL,
OR RETURN OF FUNDS.

4. FOLLOWING SUPPOSED POLICE "ATTACK" ON PRSC NATIONAL HEAD-
QUARTERS DURING APR. 24 MELEE (REFTEL), PARTY ORDERED ONE-DAY
SUSPENSION NATIONAL DISTRICT CAMPAIGN AND DRAMATIZED CASE WITH
HURRIED -- AND WELL PUBLICIZED -- MEETINGS WITH ELECTORAL GUAR-
ANTEES COMMISSION (CGE), APR. 24, AND BALAGUER (EVENING, APR. 25).
PRIOR SESSION WITH BALAGUER, PARTY'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HELD
SEVEN-HOUR DISCUSSION OF "GRAVE" NATIONAL SITUATION, AND ANNOUNCED
"DEFINITIVE" DECISION ON PARTICIPATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITH-
IN THREE DAYS, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL AND MUNI-
CIPAL-LEVEL LEADERS. MEANWHILE, DISGRUNTLED FORMER EXECCOMM

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MEMBER RAFAEL MARTINEZ GONZALEZ MADE PUBLIC LETTER TO JAVIER, UR-
GING PARTY REVIEW ITS ELECTORAL STANCE IN LIGHT "DISTRESSING AND
DIFFICULT" NATIONAL SITUATION, AND LISTIN MOUNTED COUNTER-PRESSURES
WITH LENGTHY EDITORIAL REMINDING PRSC THAT, BY ITS DECISION, IT
COULD PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ASSURING FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN DR.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING SOURCES PRSC, SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT ELECTORAL CHANCES IN SPITE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, AND BUOYED
BY WINDFALL OF FAVORABLE PUBLICITY, NOT INTENDING WITHDRAW.
APR. 24 INCIDENT AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS, LEADERS PRIVATELY AD-
MIT, PROVOKED BY SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LOUDSPEAKERS, AND SUBSEQUENT
FLURRY PRIMARILY DESIGNED DRAW ATTENTION TO PARTY'S "CONSTITU-
TIONALIST" CREDENTIALS FOR CAPITAL CONSUMPTION.
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