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TELEGRAM

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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,
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R 250031Z APR 68
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5072
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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SUBJECT: ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: SD 2250, SD A-565 *pol 228*

1. BOTH INTEREST IN AND COMPLAINTS CONCERNING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN RISING SLIGHTLY THIS WEEK, AS PRESS ACCORDING INCREASING SPACE (STILL MOSTLY ON INTERIOR PAGES) TO ELECTION-RELATED ITEMS.

2. RESPONDING TO PRESS QUERY, APR. 22, PRESIDENT BALAGUER DECLARED GODR GUARANTEES SUBSIDIES, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, TO ALL MUNICIPAL GOVTS. ELECTED MAY 16. CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) CONTINUED ITS CAMPAIGN URGING DOMS FULFILL CIVIC DUTY AND VOTE, WHILE ANNOUNCING DETAILS VARIOUS ELECTORAL PROCEDURES (PRINTING OF 8 MILLION BALLOTS, ESTABLISHMENT

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3,500 POLLING PLACES, AND CONTROLS ON FRAUD --WRIST SHAVING AND INDELIBLE INK). ELECTORAL GUARANTEES COMMISSION (CGE) ALSO ACTIVE, INITIATING INVESTIGATION OPPOSITION COMPLAINTS IN INTERIOR, MEETING WITH RANKING OFFICIALS OF SECURITY FORCES, AND ANNOUNCING INTENTION MAKE ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO BALAGUER FOR IMPROVEMENT ELECTORAL CLIMATE.

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CARIBE EDITORIALY PRAISED BOTH ORGANIZATIONS FOR "SERIOUS" AND "PRAISEWORTHY" EFFORTS, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING HOPE "ENORMOUS APATHY" TOWARDS ELECTIONS NOW PREVAILING WILL DISAPPEAR. OTHER COMMENTATORS LESS CHARITABLE TOWARDS CGE, INCLUDING ULTRA-NATIONALIST JUAN ISIDRO JIMENES GRULLON ("NEW FRAUD"), CAPITAL INDEPENDENTS MODOCAPI ("INOPERATIVE") AND NACIONAL ("STERILE TO POINT OF IMPOTENCE").

3. SOCIAL CHRISTIANS NOTABLY STEPPED UP LEVEL OF PROPAGANDA-- AND COMPLAINTS -- WITH PRESIDENT JAVIER'S TV INTERVIEW APPEARANCE HIGHLIGHT. JAVIER DECLARED THAT IF PRSC NOT PERMITTED, "AT LEAST IN MINIMAL FORM", CONDUCT CAMPAIGN, PARTY WILL WITHDRAW. MEANWHILE, SOCIAL CHRISTIANS CONTINUE WORKING AS IF GOINT TO PARTICIPATE, BECAUSE DOM PEOPLE MUST BE OFFERED "LOGICAL ALTERNATIVE." HOWEVER, ACCORDING NACIOAL, AS RESULT

PAGE THREE RUESSD 2325 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE INCIDENTS IN CAPITAL APR. 24 (SEE SEPTELGN) INCLUDING SUPPOSED POLICE "ATTACK" ON PRSC HEADQUARTERS (WITH TEAR GAS AND BULLETS), PRSC NATIONAL DISTRICT ANNOUNCED TEMPORARY SUSPENSION ITS CAMPAIGN, WITH MEETING TO BE HELD WITH CGE AFTERNOON APR. 24.

4. OTHER ELECTORAL ITEMS OF NOTE WERE: (A) STIR (INCLUDING LISTIN EDITORIAL) RAISED BY APPEARANCE IN CAPITAL -- AND VARIOUS INTERIOR TOWNS -- OF THOUSANDS OF REFORMISTA POSTERS BEARING BLALGUER'S PICTURE, IN SPITE OF HIS REQUEST PRACTICE BE DISCONTINUED (REF AIRGRAM); (B) CARIBE REPORT OF CIRCULAR ISSUED BY PR SECRETARY GENERAL GONZALEZ, EXPRESSING "SURPRISE AND INDIGNATION" THAT SOME CIVIL SERVANTS AFFILIATED WITH PARTY NOT CONTRIBUTING TWO PER CENT OF SALARIES; AND (C) CONTINUATION NACIONAL'S ABSTENTIONIST LINE, WITH PRESSURES FOR PRSC WITHDRAWAL, HEAVY PUBLICITY FOR ALLEGED "ATROPELLOS," AND COLUMNIST COMMENTING THAT ELECTIONS ARE "CIRCUS SPECTACLE FAVORING ONLY GOV'T CANDIDATES."

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