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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA 16

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

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

IO 13, CU 04, /134 W

R 021326Z MAR 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 750

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SUBJ: PRSC SPOKESMAN STATES CLIMATE FOR ELECTIONS EXISTS;
OTHER ELECTIONS NEWS

REF: (A) SD-2052; (B) SD-2090

1. APRIL 1, LISTIN REPORTED DECLARATIONS BY PRSC NATIONAL DISTRICT SEC GEN, JUAN JOSE MATOS RIVERA, THAT SATISFACTORY CLIMATE FOR ELECTIONS EXISTS IN CAPITAL. PRSC ELECTION WORKERS HAVE HAD MINOR DIFFICULTIES WITH POLICE, MATOS NOTED, BUT THESE INCIDENTS BEING "RAPIDLY" RESOLVED, AND IN

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AT LEAST ONE CASE (IN WHICH POLICE ALLEGEDLY BEAT UP TWO PARTY MEMBERS), POLICEMEN DISCIPLINED. ADDED THAT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT DR, NEVER A PARADISE, WOULD BE ONE NOW. MATOS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT MAR. 31 MEETING SOCIAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH TO "STUDY" ELECTORAL CONDITIONS (REFTEL A) NOT HELD DUE LACK QUORUM. ALTHOUGH MEETING RESCHEDULED FOR APR. 14, MATOS AFFIRMED PARTY'S YOUTH CAMPAIGNING ACTIVELY (PARTICULARLY IN CAPITAL) AND TERMED ABSTENTIONISTS "SMALL GROUP".

2. MATOS MADE NO MENTION OF EXPLOSION GRENADE, EVENING MAR. 27, IN FRONT HOME PARENTS "FELO" FLORES, PRSC MAYORAL CANDIDATE.

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EXPLOSION, WHICH INJURED TWO YOUTHS, PROMPTED POLICE CHIEF TO DESIGNATE INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION AND PRSC TO CHARGE "CRIMINAL ATTACK BY UNCONTROLLABLE ELEMENTS".

3. CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE), MAR. 30, ISSUED PROCLAMATION EXTENDING PERIOD FOR PRESENTATION CANDIDATES BY POLITICAL PARTIES UNTIL APR. 5 (INDEPENDENTS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN SIMILAR EXTENSION--REFTEL B). AS PRSC HAD PUBLICLY URGED SUCH EXTENSION PREVIOUS DAY, AND ALL REFORMISTA CANDIDACIES REPORTEDLY FILED, JCE SEEMINGLY ACCDED TO SOCIAL CHRISTIAN REQUEST. SIX ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED,

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RAISING TOTAL TO 28, WITH 24 PENDING APPROVAL.

4. COMMENT: PRIVATELY, PRSC LEADERS CONTINUE ASSERT THEIR INTENTION AND ABILITY CARRY PARTY TO ELECTIONS, PROVIDING GODER LEAVES THEM "OPENING". INTERNALLY, ABSTENTIONISTS APPEAR TO BE CONTROLLED AND RELATIVELY SILENCED, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. MEANWHILE, EXTERNAL ATTACKS ON PARTY'S PARTICIPATION CONTINUING, BUT SPORADICALLY AND IN LOW KEY.

CRIMMINS

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