

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

27 **AIRGRAM**Pol 12 Dom Rep
FOR RM USE ONLY

832

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amconsulate SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS
Amembassy LIMA
Amembassy PANAMA

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

SUBJECT : POLITICAL: PRSC Seeks Change in Electoral Process and
Comments on Peruvian and Panamanian Coups

REF :

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. The Revolutionary Social Christian Party (PRSC), in a letter to the Junta Central Electoral (JCE) signed by the executive committee, has requested a change in the organization of the 1970 elections which would schedule the election of Senators, Deputies, Mayors and City Councilmen three months before the election for President and Vice President of the Republic.

2. In its letter to the JCE, the PRSC said it was making the proposal "in the conviction that in this manner we are contributing (to the democratic process) so that each community has the opportunity of expressing its desires and sentiments about local and national leaders". By separating the elections, the party claimed that "institutionality" would be more strongly respected by all and a line drawn against those who might have "continuista or caudillezca" ideas.

3. In its letter the party expressed its preoccupation about the "non-fulfillment of the obligations contracted with the people by the present Dominican government" and about the recent coups in Peru and Panama. The letter said that "with astonishment and shame the world, especially Latin Americans, has seen, how in less than two weeks, two governments with legal origins in the voluntary decisions of their respective peoples, have fallen like houses of cards at the hands of the brutal and perverse action of military and civilian groups ignorant of the rights of free men".

According to the PRSC, these facts and "their ominous consequences
[constitute another example of the difficult path our people have to]

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-65 05-323

Exempt from automatic decontrol

Drafted by:

POL:LR:Teischer:10-30-68:hok

Contents and Classification Approved by:

DCM:FJDevine

Clearances:

POL:JCHaahr

COPYFLO-PBR

1968 NOV 1 PM 2 00

travel, encountering at each step the obstacle of political unconsciousness, unmerciful egoism, and unconscionable ambition" of some politicians who "consider themselves tutors of the modern world".

4. The letter continued that the conspiracies which Latin America has suffered "by the traitorous action of civilian and military groups from within and imperialist powers from outside" have resulted in the "proven fragility of our public and private institutions". The PRSC said it had always opposed the dictatorial ambitions, whether open or veiled, of the civilian or military minority which "rejects legitimacy and respect for law and the institutions of law". The Social Christians said they lamented the fact that golpista attitudes were often encouraged by the incapacity of elected officials to demonstrate "their character of popular representation". As an example they cited "our parliamentarians who are the product of elections in which the presidential candidate attracts all the attention; many times they (the parliamentarians) are elected and at the same time not known by the people". END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Comment: The PRSC is undoubtedly correct in implying that many members of the present Congress were elected not on the basis of their own individual qualifications but on the basis of the pulling power of Balaguer or Bosch in their districts in 1966. The party is probably also correct in its judgment that it would stand a better chance of winning some Congressional seats and of improving its electoral position in the municipalities if these elections were held before the Presidential election. It seems reasonably certain, however, that the government will oppose the proposed change. If the President is a candidate to succeed himself, he would want a majority at least as large -- larger if possible -- as he now has in both houses. The same would hold true for whoever runs on the PR ticket. It is also doubtful that the PRD will show any interest in the PRSC suggestion. The initiative appears to have been an unilateral one, taken without prior consultation with other political parties.

CRIMMINS

J. H. C.

by J. J. D.