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ACTION ARA 20

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, PM 05, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10/30/69

P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, NIC 01, RSR 01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9366

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4251

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: PRD REACTION TO BALAGUER SPEECH

REF: SD-4247; SD-4220

1. IN INITIAL REACTION, PRD SEC. GEN. PENA GOMEZ ISSUED STATEMENT PUBLISHED EL NACIONAL OCT. 29. SAID PRESIDENT'S RALLY PROHIBITION AGAINST PRD WAS DEMONSTRATION HIS "TERROR AND FEAR" OF INCREASING POPULAR PRD PROTESTS AGAINST WAVE OF GODR TERROR. SAID PRESIDENT HIMSELF JUSTIFIED PRD POSITION BY RECOGNIZING POLICE CONTAIN TERRORIST ELEMENTS. STATED HIGH PRD LEADERS WOULD MEET, AND TAKE INDICATED MEASURES. ADDED "PRD WILL DEFEND ITSELF, FOR WE WILL NOT ALLOW IT BE DESTROYED IN ANY MANNER."

2. PRESIDENT SAME DAY (A) REAFFIRMED PRD COULD HOLD NO MORE OPEN-AIR MEETINGS, EVEN DURING ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD, "UNLESS THEY CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE;" (B) BUT SAID DID NOT CONSIDER NECESSARY CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) REVIEW OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF PRD; AND (C) STATED HIS OCT. 28 REMARKS DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST

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EXTREMIST WING OF PRD WHICH SUPPORTS "DICTATORSHIP WITH POPULAR SUPPORT," AND NOT AGAINST PARTY MODERATES WHO DEMOCRATS AND BELIEVE IN FREE ELECTIONS.

3. PRO-ELECTIONIST PRD LEADER MANUEL FERNANDEZ MARMOL ATTRIBUTED PRESIDENTIAL PROHIBITION TO SANTIAGO RALLY OCT. 26, AND SAID GODR DARES NOT PERMIT CONTINUANCE THESE MASS DEMONSTRATIONS OF PROTEST AGAINST CRIMES AND REPRESSION.

4. PRD SENATORS MAXIMO LOVATON, GIL MORALES AND CASIMIRO CASTRO TOOK SIMILAR LINE, REPORTEDLY AGREEING BALAGUER'S REMARKS WERE "ABSOLUTE MANIFESTATION OF FEAR" OF MASS DEMONSTRATIONS. ON OCT. 30 PRD RADIO PROGRAM, SEN. CASIMIRO SAID (A) BALAGUER PRODUCT OF TRUJILLO DICTATORSHIP, BUT NOW HE SUDDENLY ANTI-DICTATORSHIP; (B) WOULD BE IMPRUDENT DRIVE PRD UNDERGROUND, FOR PARTY "WOULD THRIVE ON ILLEGAL STATUS AND BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER;" (C) PRESIDENT AFRAID OF PRD, WHICH "MAIN POLITICAL FORCE OF AMERICAN CONTINENT;" (D) PARTY WILL CONTINUE HOLD MEETINGS, BUT CANNOT HOLD THEM INDOORS FOR THERE NO BUILDINGS BIG ENOUGH; AND (E) PRD NOT GOLPISTA, BUT "HERE ARE HONEST MILITARY AND POLICE WHO CAN DO SAME THING AS HAPPENING NOW IN PERU."

5. DEPUTY MIGUEL SOTO SAID PRD LEGISLATORS MAY STAGE PROTEST WALKOUT IN CONGRESS, BUT THUS FAR WE HAVE NO WORD SUCH MOVE.

6. COMMENT: SACHA VOLMAN TOLD EMBOFF PENA GOMEZ FEELS PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE INSPIRED NOT BY FIERY SPEECHES AT SANTIAGO RALLY, BUT BY FEAR OF "UGLY" CROWD MOOD THERE. VOLMAN ADMITTED PENA AND OTHER PRD LEADERS RELIEVED BE FREE OF COMMITMENT HOLD NOV. 1 RALLY IN SANTO DOMINGO, FOR THEY AFRAID OF CONSEQUENCES SUCH MEETING. PENA REPORTEDLY SAID PARTY WOULD CONTINUE HOLD MEETINGS, BUT WOULD HOLD THEM INDOORS.

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