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 Department of State **TELEGRAM**
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ACTION ARA 16

INFO RSR 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, AID 28, PC 04, /119 W
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P R 252000Z NOV 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6572

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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SUBJECT: BALAGUER REFUSES TO LIFT BAR AGAINST WESSIN'S RETURN

REF: SD 4303, 4311

1. PRESS REPORTS NOVEMBER 25 PRESIDENT BALAGUER, IN ANSWER TO WESSIN DEMAND REENTER COUNTRY TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF SLAIN BROTHER-IN-LAW, STATED THAT WESSIN'S REASON FOR RETURNING "WOULD NOT BE BURIAL, BECAUSE IT ALREADY HAS TAKEN PLACE". BALAGUER REPORTEDLY ADDED "I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT HE (WESSIN) CAN COME TO TAKE PART IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS (1970)" AND THAT "DOORS WILL BE OPEN FOR ALL DOMINICANS TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS". BALAGUER INDICATED THAT HE LOOKED UPON WAY IN WHICH WESSIN REQUESTED PERMISSION TO RETURN AS A FORM OF "PRESSURE AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND ADDED "IT IS NECESSARY (FOR WESSIN) TO REMAIN CALM ABOUT THAT (MATTER OR RETURNING TO DR)" AND "WAIT FOR OPPORTUNE MOMENT" FOR HIS RETURN.

2. COMMENT: BALAGUER'S POSITION AS REPORTED ABOVE COULD WELL BE TESTED AGAIN THIS WEEK BY WESSIN SHOULD LATTER DECIDE PUSH ISSUE FURTHER BY DEMANDING PERMISSION RETURN TO DR TO ATTEND MASS FOR BROTHER-IN-LAW (MASS PRESUMABLY WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY OR SATURDAY THIS WEEK). WHILE WE HAVE NO DIRECT READING FROM PQD SOURCES, ASSUME FROM PREVIOUS SENSE FRUSTRATION EXISTING AMONG PARTY LEADERS HERE THAT ADVICE TO WESSIN WILL BE TO KEEP PRESSURES ON NOW THAT PARTY PRESENTED WITH ISSUE WHICH CAN BE EXPLOITED BOTH FOR POLITICAL AND OTHER PURPOSES.

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