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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO : Amconsulate SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

SUBJECT : Wessinistas Respond to President Balaguer's Speech

REF : Santo Domingo A-820; SD-4016

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RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

DATE: 27 OCT 68

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OCT 29 1968

1. Background: President Joaquin Balaguer, in his speech to the nation on October 18, lambasted the political opposition, describing it as "opposition of the lunatic asylum" and "rabid". His remarks were then followed by the peroration to his speech, a call to unite, that although directed to all Dominicans, had special meaning for the opposition. The President's words were: "this government, animated by the firm purpose of putting the country back on the road to full social and economic recovery, has in its hands the lever of Archimedes: give it a point of support, the support of your cooperation without reservation, and together we will lift up the world, the Dominican world of tomorrow ...".

2. PQD Response: El Caribe (independent) carried a news item on October 23 reporting that the Partido Quisqueyano Demócrata (PQD) seized upon this opportunity to "offer its support" but with 28 specific reservations. El Caribe reported that the Central Executive Committee of the PQD, in a letter addressed to the Balaguer administration on October 22, offered the cooperation of the PQD provided a number of chronic complaints (reportedly 28 in all) of the PQD concerning the government's actions (or failure to act) were resolved to the party's satisfaction. Portions of the PQD letter and certain of the demands contained therein are reported below.

"In his last public address (October 18) Dr. Balaguer shouted about the lever of Archimedes, asking for a point of support which has not been earned in order to raise the Dominican world. For the prosperity and happiness of Dominicans in a solid framework where liberty

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and the sovereignty of the country are maintained without impairment, the PQD would feel satisfaction in collaborating with this government and in supporting it during its 4-year term." According to the Caribe article, the letter stated that General Elias WESSIN y Wessin offers "without reservation our assistance to the President of the Republic on the basis that we work towards the fulfillment of certain points". The principal conditions which the PQD demanded from the government are:

1. "To lift the impediments to entry back into the country for all expatriated Dominicans, among whom is ex-General Wessin y Wessin;
2. Discovery and punishment of the perpetrators of the assaults on the National Lottery, commercial banks and private enterprises in the Republic;
3. Discovery and punishment of those who committed an attempt against the life of national hero General Antonio IMBERT Barrera;
4. Report of the auditors ordered by the President of the Republic on the State Agencies after 1961, including the report pertaining to the old Center of Education of the Armed Forces (CEFA);
5. Suppression of the corps of thugs commanded by Santos MELIDO Marte and Col. Ney TEJEDA Alvarez;
6. Immediate discontinuation of the mysterious deaths and disappearances of Dominican citizens, exposing the crimes that to date remain unpunished, and punishment of the guilty;
7. Discontinuation of political persecutions establishing a climate of general security which would make possible the free play of ideas;
8. To discontinue the partial, discriminatory and never genuine plan of austerity in order that the only ones injured, the poor, suffer no more the rigors of its unrighteousness;
9. To increase the miserable salaries of our brothers in the enlisted ranks of the armed forces and the national police and, in addition, to issue them clothes and shoes in the necessary quantity and quality at least every 6 months;

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10. That the government plan for the construction of multi-family dwellings be suspended and that an agrarian reform be undertaken that is free from demagoguery and crooked politics; and
11. Reinstatement of those military personnel who have been fired for making known their friendship with General Wessin y Wessin."

* * * * *

3. When President Balaguer was queried on the PQD offer at his weekly news conference on October 23, he expressed only "vague familiarity" with the letter and said only that the cooperation he sought was "from Dominicans as citizens and not as political partisans" and that the cooperation must not be "interested".

J.H.C.

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