



Department of State

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, AID 28, PC 04, SSC 01, IO 13,

RSR 01, /128 W

R 052104Z MAR 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4776

INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 714

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1938

SUBJECT: ANOTHER CABINET CHANGE; OTHER POLITICALLY MOTIVATED APPOINTMENTS

1. SECRETARY OF HEALTH GILBERTO HERRERA BAEZ (REFORMISTA) AND SECRETARY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MARIO FERNANDEZ MENA (PRD MODERATE) WERE SWITCHED IN JOBS MARCH 3 IN MOVE THAT LEFT PRD DISSIDENTS AND MODERATES WITH FOUR SUBSTANTIVE CABINET JOBS (OTHERS BEING MARTINEZ FRANCISCO IN FINANCE; BREA PENA IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE; AND MIOLAN IN TOURISM). HERRERA HAD LONG BEEN ON SKIDS.

2. ADDING TO PATCHQUILT COMPLEXION HIS ADMINISTRATION, BALAGUER MARCH 1 NAMED FORMER GOVERNMENT NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION (GNR) MEMBER ALEJANDRO ZELLER COCCO AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HYDRAULIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE (INDRHI), REPLACING ANGEL MARIA PICHARDO, WHO WAS NAMED TECHNICAL ADVISER OF HYDRAULIC RESOURCES TO TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF PRESIDENCY. ZELLER HAD EARLIER SERVED BRIEFLY

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IN SIMILAR CAPACITY. HE WAS APPOINTED BY TRIUMVIRATE TO THEN NEWLY CREATED (AND LONG SINCE DISBANDED) SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR HYDRAULIC RESOURCES FEW WEEKS BEFORE 1965 REVOLUTION. AN UNMITIGATED OPPORTUNIST, HE HAS SINCE GNR DISBANDED IN SEPTEMBER 1965 BEEN AVIDLY SEEKING BIGGEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC PLUM. WHAT EFFECT HIS RABIDLY "ANTI-CONSTITUTIONALIST" INCLINATIONS

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WILL HAVE ON HEAVILY "CONSTITUTIONALIST" WEIGHTED INDRHI
PERSONNEL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

3. ON MARCH 4 FORMER TRUJILLO ECONOMIC "CZAR" VIRGILIO ALVAREZ
SANCHEZ (SEE CRASWELLER) WAS SWORN IN AS ALTERNATE DELEGATE AND
ECONOMIC ADVISER TO DOM DELEGATION TO UN WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR
AND REPORTEDLY AT NO SALARY. HE IS SON OF FORMER INTIMATE
TRUJILLO ASSOCIATE VIRGILIO ALVAREZ PINA (CUCHO) AND BROTHER
OF POLICE CHIEF BRAULIO ALVAREZ SANCHEZ.

4. ON MARCH 5 PDC PRESIDENT (AND RECENT DEFECTOR FROM AND PUBLIC
CRITIC OF BALAGUER AUSE) MARIO READ VITTINI WAS APPOINTED MEMBER
DOM DELEGATION TO UN CONFERENCE ON LAW OF TREATIES--SCHEDULED
BEGIN VIENNA MARCH 26--WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR. THIS MOVE
SHOULD KEEP HIM OUT OF DR DURING MOST OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION
CAMPAIGN. OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE JOSE MARIA BONNETTI

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BURGOS AND MIGUEL GUERRA SANCHEZ. BONNETTI WILL HEAD GROUP;
HE AND READ WERE MEMBERS DOM DELEGATION TO 21ST UNGA. FURTHER
COMMENT ON DELEGATION TO VIENNA WILL BE INCLUDED SEPTTEL.
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