



## 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, E 15, RSR 07, /129

R 292241Z FEB 68

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4744

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRIMCE 185

AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 7070

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SUBJECT: BALAGUER COMMENTS ON DOMINICAN-HAITIAN AFFAIRS

REF: SD 1890

1. IN STATE OF NATION ADDRESS TO CONGRESS ON FEB 27 BALAGUER REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO KEEP FRONTIER WITH HAITI CLOSED TO AVOID CONTRABAND AND IMPEDE CLANDESTINE TRAFFIC OF PERSONS AND GOODS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ADMITTED THIS MEASURE DID NOT PLEASE DUVALIER AND NOTABLY INFLUENCED LATTER'S DECISION PROHIBIT DR'S CONTRACTING HAITIAN BRACEROS TO CUT DOM SUGAR CANE. HOWEVER, DECLARED DR'S SOLE INTENTION WAS DEFEND COUNTRY'S INTEREST, AND IN NO WAY INTENDED INJURE NEIGHBOR'S SENSIBILITY NOR PRODUCE TROUBLES OF ANY KIND IN HAITI, "COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE MUST MAINTAIN CLOSEST FRIENDSHIP AND WHICH WE SHOULD CULTIVATE WITH PREFERENCE OVER ALL

PAGE TWO RUESSD 1898 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
 PEOPLES OF INTER-AMERICAN AREA."

(2) 2. BALAGUER WENT ON TO SAY ONLY PROBLEM OF IMPORTANCE WHICH AROSE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IN 1967 WAS HAITIAN COMPLAINT THAT WATER FILTERS FOR PEDERNALES AQUEDUCT ALLEGEDLY CONSTRUCTED HAITIAN TERRITORY. BALAGUER SAID PROBLEM BEING STUDIED BY FON SECRETARIAT AND IF HAITI IS RIGHT DUE SATISFACTION WILL BE GIVEN.

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## 3. COMMENT:

A. HAITIAN COMPLAINT OF ALLEGED BOUNDARY VIOLATION CAME TO LIGHT LAST WEEK WHEN FON SECRETARIAT TOLD PRESS IT WAS CAREFULLY STUDYING NOTE ON SUBJECT RECEIVED FROM GOH AND SURVEYING EXACT LOCATION, ALTHOUGH FONSEC SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT HAITIAN COMPLAINT ERRONEOUSLY BASED ON OUTDATED MAP. HEAD OF MUNICIPAL LEAGUE LIKEWISE PLAYED DOWN ISSUE BY TELLING PRESS THAT IF STUDY REVEALED INSTALLATION IN FACT ON HAITIAN TERRITORY WOULD SIMPLY BE MOVED.

B. WITH THIS PUBLIC DISCLAIMER OF ANY INTENT INJURE HAITIAN INTERESTS IN BOUNDARY CLOSING AND LOW-KEY, CONCILIATORY TREATMENT OF BOUNDARY QUESTION, BALAGUER CLEARLY MAKING GESTURE TO ASSUAGE DUVALIER'S INJURED FEELINGS AND AT LEAST TO AVOID ANY WORSENING RELATIONS WITH HAITI. HOWEVER IT ALSO CLEAR PRESIDENT REMAINS FIRM ON BOUNDARY CLOSING.  
EXEMPT

CRIMMINS

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