

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State**Pol 12 DOM REP**43**XR Pol 15-2 DOM REP*

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3470

SUBJ: PRD TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM CONGRESS

1. PRD BLOCS IN CHAMBER AND SENATE STAGED SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR WALKOUTS MAY 1. PROMISING RETURN ONLY "WHEN CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES AGAIN RULE IN COUNTRY." FIRST WALKOUT, STAGED IN CHAMBER, FOLLOWED SPEECH BY MINORITY LEADER JOTTIN CURY (REPORTED SEPARATELY) WHICH REPORTEDLY APPLAUDED BY PUBLIC AUDIENCE. AS PRD DEPUTIES DESERTED CHAMBER, PUBLIC REPORTED TO HAVE SUNG NATIONAL ANTHEM. SIMILAR SCENE THEN STAGED IN SENATE WHERE PRD SENATOR SECUNDINO GIL MORALES READ SAME SPEECH DELIVERED BY CURY, AND PUBLIC APPLAUDED AND SANG NATIONAL ANTHEM AS PRD SENATORS WALKED OUT.

2. CURY'S SPEECH AND PRD WALKOUT CRITICIZED BY NUMBER OF REFORMISTAS IN CHAMBER, AND CHAMBER AND SENATE THEN PASSED MOTIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN PRES BALAGUER.

3. FOLLOWING WALKOUT NUMBER OF PRD LEGISLATORS EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR NON-ATTENDANCE AT CONGRESS TEMPORARY AND NOT TANTAMOUNT TO RESIGNATION, AND THAT THEREFORE THEIR SUBSTITUTION, MENTIONED BY PRES BALAGUER ON MAY 8, NOT PROVIDED FOR IN LAW.

4. ALTHOUGH CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON WALKOUT NOT CLEAR, CONSTITUTION DOES PROVIDE FOR 30 DAY ABSENCE OF MEMBER OF CONGRESS BEFORE SUPLENTES MUST BE SUMMONED TO SIT IN FOR PRINCIPAL. REPORTEDLY, BOTH HOUSES PLAN TO BE GUIDED BY THIS PROVISION OF CONSTITUTION. CHAMBER PRES BADIA LARA AND SENATE PRES VALDEZ SANTANA HAVE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THEIR EFFORTS DISSUADE PRD FROM WALKOUT FAILED, THEY WILL CONTINUE MAINTAIN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRD LEADERS IN HOPE THEY CAN PERSUADE THEM TO RETURN PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF 30 DAY PERIOD. FINALLY, SCHEDULED END OF CONGRESSIONAL SESSION ON MAY 27 COULD PROVIDE OUT FOR BOTH SIDES AS THIRTY DAY PERIOD WOULD NOT HAVE EXPIRED BY THEN.

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*Santo Domingo 3470
5/10/67**(2)*