

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* *POH 15-1 DOM REP*

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3973

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1. FOLLOWING CABINET AND OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES AND ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED TODAY.

A. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION HIDALGO JUSTO REPLACED BY LUIS ALFREDO DUVERGE FORMER SUB-SECRETARY OF EDUCATION WHO HAD BEEN SERVING AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRARIAN REFORM INSTITUTE. DUVERGE REPLACED IN AGRARIAN REFORM POSITION BY RAFAEL SENIOR FRIAS WHO REPLACED AS SUB-SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS BY JOSE BENEDICTO ALMONTE. ELIAS BRACHE PELlice NAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HIGHWAYS IN PLACE OF BENEDICTO ALMONTE.

B. SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS LUIS MAURICIO BOGAERT REPLACED BY MICHEL LULO GITTE. BOGAERT APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE REPLACING RAFAEL RUIZ MEJIA.

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C. SECRETARY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO TOMAS ALCIBIADES ESPINOSA REPLACED BY AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL JUAN QUIRILIO VILORIO SANCHEZ.

D. CAPTAIN FRANCISCO JAVIER RIVERA CAMINERO DESIGNATED NAVAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENCY DELFIN PEREZ Y PEREZ REPLACED BY JOSE QUEZADA WHO REPLACED AS PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BY ADMINISTRATOR NATIONAL HOUSING INSTITUTE MANUEL DE JESUS MORALES HIDALGO WHO, IN TURN, REPLACED BY PEREZ Y PEREZ.

F. SUB-SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE OFR NATURAL RESOURCES PURO MADERA REPLACED BY LUIS TIRADO.

2. COMMENT: INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT CHANGES IMPROVE CABINET BOTH IN TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL SENSE. HIDALGO JUST

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HAS LONG BEEN PRIME CANDIDATE FOR REMOVAL FROM CABINET WHERE HE HAS BEEN CONSTANT EMBARRASSMENT TO PRESIDENT. DUVERGE REGARDED AS FIRST RATE EDUCATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR. BOGAERT INDICATED SOME MONTHS AGO THAT HE WANTED LEAVE PUBLIC WORKS WHICH HE HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BRING UNDER HIS CONTROL. LULO GITTE HAS BEEN SERVING AS BACK-UP MAN TO BOGAERT IN PUBLIC WORKS AND BRINGS BOTH EXPERIENCE AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO JOB. REPLACEMENT OF PEREZ Y PEREZ TAKES OUT OF PALACE MAN KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SELLING INFLUENCE FOR CASH. QUEZADA

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IS PERSON OF SOME STATURE WITHIN REFORMISTA PARTY WHO APPARENTLY IS LOYAL TO AND ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT. RECALL OF VILORIO SANCHEZ, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF REFORMISTA PARTY, IS IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS OF BOTH VILORIO AND REFORMISTAS AND MAY INDICATE DESIRE OF PRESIDENT TO IMPROVE HIS RELATIONS WITH PARTY. ASSIGNMENT OF RIVERA CAMINERO MEETS RIVERA'S REQUEST FOR POSITION WITHIN D.R. BUT NEUTRALIZES HIM POLITICALLY TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. REMAINING CHANGES APPEAR TO BE NATURAL CONSEQUENCES OF THESE PRINCIPAL CHANGES.

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