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Santo Domingo 736  
10/4/67

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ACTION ARA 18

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04  
DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, RSR 01, NSAE 00, SAH 03, IO 21, NIC 01, AID 30  
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3814  
INFO AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 509

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 736

SUBJ: BALAGUER WARNS EXTREMES OF LEFT AND RIGHT

REF: SD-725

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER OPENED HIS OCTOBER 2 RADIO-TV REPORT TO NATION (REFTEL) WITH STERN WARNING TO LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS AND WITH STRONG REASSURANCES TO POPULATION AT LARGE THAT HE NOT UNAWARE OF THREATS TO STABILITY POSED BY EXTREMISTS AT BOTH ENDS POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

2. PRESIDENT BEGAN BY FLATLY DENYING CURRENT RUMORS OF IMPENDING DISTURBANCES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF COUNTRY. STATED SITUATION "ABSOLUTELY NORMAL" AND THAT THERE HAS "NEVER EXISTED AS FIRM DESIRE FOR PEACE AND ORDER AS THAT PRESENTLY HELD BY IMMENSE MAJORITY DOMINICAN PEOPLE. GOVERNMENT IS

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CONSCIOUS OF ITS STABILITY", WHICH BASED PRIMARILY ON

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POPULAR DESIRE FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS, HE SAID.

3. IT TRUE, PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT SIZABLE MANEUVERS AND EXERCISES BEING CONDUCTED BY SPECIALIZED MILITARY UNITS IN SOME MOUNTAIN AREAS. "THESE WILL CONTINUE IN INFLEXIBLE MANNER SO LONG AS THREAT OF SUBVERSION AGAINST CONTINENTAL DEMOCRACY ORGANIZED BY CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST POWERS HANGS OVER DR AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS", PRESIDENT DECLARED. RATHER THAN PROVOKING ALARM, THESE MOVEMENTS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION SAFEGUARD PEACE AND DEFEND AT ALL COSTS NATION'S INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY AGAINST "ANY POSSIBLE CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITY", BALAGUER STATED IN OBVIOUS EFFORT REASSURE THOSE WHO SUSPECT HIM OF BEING "SOFT" ON COMMUNISM WHILE CONCURRENTLY WARNING RIGHTISTS THEY ALSO BEING GUARDED AGAINST BY SECURITY FORCES. THIS NATION MAY FALL THROUGH DICTATES OF FATE OR PROVIDENCE, PRESIDENT ASSERTED IN APPARENT REFERENCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO POSSIBILITY HIS OWN ASSASSINATION OR DEATH FROM NATURAL CAUSES, "BUT NOT FROM LACK OF ATTENTION OR WEAKNESS OF THIS GOVERNMENT",

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4. A. RECENT DEATHS OF THREE YOUTHS NEAR BONA0 (SD-712) RESULTED FROM ISOLATED INCIDENT WHICH SHOULD MAKE "MINUSCULE GROUPS" INTENT ON SUBVERTING ORDER REFLECT ON FACT, AS POINTED OUT BY LISTIN DIARIO, THAT "PHYSICAL OR MORAL CONDITIONS NECESSARY (TO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY) DO NOT EXIST IN DR", PRESIDENT CONTINUED, IT TIME THAT YOUTH MEDITATE ON FUTILITY OF VIOLENCE AS WAY TO RADICAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES. ONLY ONES WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM SUCH DEATHS ARE LEADERS OF EXTREME LEFT WHO WILL USE THEM TO OBTAIN NEW REMITTANCES OF FUNDS FROM CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST NATIONS WHICH SPONSOR SUBVERSION IN HEMISPHERE. "COMMUNISM, AS MOLOCH, DEMANDS BLOOD", PRESIDENT THUNDERED, BUT THAT BLOOD WILL SERVE TO ENRICH COFFERS OF CERTAIN LEADERS OF WHOM CUBA HAS REQUESTED GUERRILLA WARFARE AS CONDITION FOR NEW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

B. COMMENT: PRESIDENT HAS FOR OVER MONTH INSISTED PRIVATELY

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THAT DR HAD BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR STEPPED UP ACTIVITY AT LASO CONFERENCE, WHICH REPORTEDLY PRESSURED DOMINICAN COMMUNISTS TO "MAKE REVOLUTION" OR BE CUT OFF FROM FURTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR A-152). HE TOLD PRESS OCTOBER 3 THAT HIS INFORMATION HAD COME FROM "DIFFERENT FOREIGN AND DOMINICAN SOURCES".

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5. IT OPPORTUNE INSIST ON FACT DOMINICANS MUST ACCUSTOM THEMSELVES TO LIVING IN POLITICAL CLIMATE PREVALENT IN WORLD TODAY, PRESIDENT CONTINUED, AND NOT TO PRETEND THAT DR IS UNTOUCHED BY WORLD'S MAIN POLITICAL CURRENTS. TODAY EVERYWHERE EXIST STRONG CURRENTS WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS DESTRUCTION CAPITALIST SOCIETY, WHILE CONCURRENTLY THERE ARE FORCES WHICH, UNDER GUISE OF OPPOSING COMMUNISM, SEEK ESTABLISHMENT DICTATORIAL REGIMES OF NO LESS REACTIONARY CHARACTER THAN THOSE PROPOSED BY MARXISM-LENINISM. IN DR WE MUST FOR SOME TIME TO COME BE PREPARED SUFFER EXCESSES OF COMMUNISM AND ITS RIGHTIST ADVERSARIES, "TWO OPPOSED IDEOLOGICAL CURRENTS WHICH ARE NEVERTHELESS UNIDENTIFIED BY THEIR COMMON DESIRE ACHIEVE POWER UNCONSTITUTIONALLY". BUT NEITHER CURRENT HAS CHANCE OF ATTAINING ITS OBJECTIVE IN DR IN YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, PRESIDENT ASSERTED. DOMINICAN COMMUNISM IS IN DEFEAT, FRACTURED AND DISCREDITED, WHILE FAR RIGHT LACKS AUTHORITY TO RAISE ITS HEAD ANEW AFTER HAVING FAILED MAKE USE OF OPPORTUNITY IT HAD TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CAPACITY GOVERN AND ITS ABILITY SAVE NATION FROM ONE OF ITS GREATEST CRISES. (THIS

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APPEARED BE DIRECT SLAP AT BONNELLY AND COUNCIL OF STATE.) PRESIDENT ENDED THIS PORTION SPEECH WITH APPEAL FOR ALL TO ACT WITHIN LAW AND TO IGNORE RUMOR-MONGERING OF THOSE WHO SEEK NATION'S DESTRUCTION.

7. COMMENT: THIS PORTION PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (OTHER ASPECTS REPORTED SEPARATELY) CONTAINED PERHAPS HIS STRONGEST ATTACK TO DATE ON BOTH EXTREMES. HIS ATTACK ON COMMUNISTS (AND

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CONCURRENT ATTACK ON PRD (REFTEL) SEEMED INTENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO STIR UP MAXIMUM INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHIN AND BETWEEN VARIOUS COMMUNIST PARTIES (AND WITHIN PRD). STRENGTH OF BALAGUER'S ATTACK, HOWEVER (AND ESPECIALLY FORCEFULNESS OF HIS WORDS ON PRD), WAS PERHAPS PRIMARILY RESPONSIVE TO GROWING UNHAPPINESS ON RIGHT (INCLUDING WITHIN HIGH CIRCLES HIS ADMINISTRATION) AND WITHIN SEGMENTS OF MILITARY OVER PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED "SOFT" AND "CONCILIATORY" ATTITUDE TOWARD RADICAL AND EXTREME LEFT, COUPLED WITH PRESIDENT'S DEMONSTRATED LOW REGARD FOR PARTIDO REFORMISTA, HIS FAILURE TO REWARD NUMEROUS FOLLOWERS, HIS INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING GOVERNMENT OF "NATIONAL UNITY", AND DEPRESSED ECONOMIC SITUATION (WHICH HAS AFFECTED INTERESTS OF POWERFUL ECONOMIC GROUPS), PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED "SOFTNESS" ON COMMUNISM--AND

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RIGHT LIMPS PRD WITH COMMUNISTS-- HAS LED TO WIDESPREAD UNEASINESS AMONG AFFECTED CIRCLES THAT BALAGUER MAY BE THEREBY TURNING COUNTRY OVER TO EXTREME LEFT. BOSCH, OF COURSE, WAS SUBJECT TO SIMILAR CHARGE IN 1963, AND PRESIDENT HAS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS REPORTEDLY STATED TO CLOSE FRIENDS THAT HE NOT ABOUT REPEAT BOSCH'S MISTAKE OF NOT DEFENDING HIMSELF AGAINST RIGHT.

8. ON OTHER SIDE OF COIN, MUCH SENTIMENT ON BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT OF CENTER, AS IN CENTER ITSELF, HAS LONG BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH PRESIDENT'S RELUCTANCE TO POINT PUBLIC FINGER AT MOST OBSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS OF EXTREME RIGHT. THIS SENTIMENT SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED BY BALAGUER'S CLEARER STATEMENT TO DATE ON EXACTLY WHO IN FAR RIGHT IS BENT ON EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL ADVENTURES. EFFECT, HOWEVER, WILL PROBABLY BE TO INCREASE RIGHTIST EFFORTS AGAINST ADMINISTRATION, BUT BALAGUER SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE SOUGHT DELIBERATELY TO ERODE SUPPORT FOR THESE EFFORTS BY STRENGTH OF HIS CHARGES AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND PRD.

9. EFFECT OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON PRD WILL BE TREATED IN SUBSEQUENT REPORTING. PRD DID NOT COMPLETE ITS REPLY IN TIME FOR TODAY'S RADIO PROGRAM AS HERALDED. SEGEN PENÀ GOMEZ

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MADE VERY STRONG 20-MINUTE PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT,  
HOWEVER.

GP-3 CRIMMINS

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