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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

POH 23-8 DOM REP

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Action

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Info

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FM AMEMBASSY (SANTO DOMINGO)
TO SECSTATE WASHDC (IMMEDIATE 1039)
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CONFIDENTIAL OCTOBER 19

LIMDIS

I CALLED ON GARCIA GODOY AT 6:30 THIS EVENING AT HIS REQUEST. HE HAD BEEN HOLDING DISCUSSIONS ALL AFTERNOON ON ARMS COLLECTION PROBLEM AND WAS IN THE MIDST OF DRAFTING A SPEECH FOR RADIO DELIVERY ANNOUNCING PLAN TO GO INTO EFFECT TOMORROW. PLAN WAS ELABORATION OF HIS IDEA OF A COMMISSION DISCUSSED WITH BRAZILIANS AND OURSELVES EARLIER TODAY AND INVOLVED NUMEROUS COMMISSIONS, STARTING WITH 50 TOMORROW AND WORKING UP TO 200 TO COVER ALL SANTO DOMINGO CITY AND NATIONAL DISTRICT. FOUR-

PAGE 2 RUESSD 582S CONFIDENTIAL

MAN COMMISSIONS WOULD BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF POLICE, REGULAR MILITARY, CAAMANO MILITARY AND JUDICIAL POWER. GARCIA GODOY PLAN WAS TO ANNOUNCE PROGRAM OVER RADIO AT 7:00 P.M. TONIGHT ALLOWING FROM 6:00 A.M. TO NOON TOMORROW FOR PEOPLE TO TURN IN ARMS VOLUNTARILY, WITH COMMISSIONS GOING TO WORK IN ASSIGNED AREAS TOMORROW AFTERNOON. PLAN SAID PRESIDENT HAD SUPPORT OF BALAGUER, WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO ITS ELABORATION AND WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT ON RADIO WITH SPEECH OF SUPPORT. THERE WAS POSSIBILITY BOSCH WOULD ALSO SUPPORT.

(2) GARCIA GODOY STATED THAT MINISTER OF ARMED FORCES HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO PLAN AND HAD GONE AWAY TO CONSULT HIS CHIEFS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD TOLD RIVERA THAT IF HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ORDERS OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF THEN HE, GARCIA GODOY, WOULD RESIGN AND MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT COULD TAKE OVER PROBLEM. WHILE WE WERE TALKING, WORD CAME IN THAT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFFS REPRESENTATIVES HAD IN EFFECT TAKEN OVER RADIO SANTO DOMINGO SO THAT MOBILE UNIT WHICH WAS TO RECORD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE THE STATION. GARCIA GODOY SAID HE SUPPOSED THIS WAS IT.

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