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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: Amconsulate SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

DATE: NOVEMBER 29, 1967

SUBJECT: UCN Asks Electoral Board for Official Recognition

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

1. On November 24, the conservative National Civic Union Party (UCN) requested the Central Electoral Board (JCE) to grant it official recognition as a political party for election purposes. (The UCN, along with other minor parties, had lost official status by its failure in the 1966 election to meet the minimum legal requirements for retention of recognition, i.e., to receive three per cent of the votes cast--it obtained only 1.2 percent--or to elect a member of Congress.) In making its request to the JCE, the UCN National Committee claimed it deposited a list of over 100,000 signatures of persons affiliated to the party, representing 20 of the 26 provinces and the national district of the country. The Committee stated that the UCN's principal affiliation came from the Duarte Province, with its capital at San Francisco de Macoris. Other localities where the UCN claimed strength were in Baoruco, Banf, Moca, La Vega and Santiago de los Caballeros.

2. The Committee expressed its optimism that the UCN would, "without any effort", win many of the municipalities in the 1968 elections, but indicated uncertainty about its possibilities for victory in the national district. It said that although it was planning to go to the elections unaffiliated with another party, the UCN would accept the support of other political parties.

The UCN and Wessin

3. The Committee reiterated the UCN's posture with respect to ex-General Elias WESSIN y Wessin, viz., that like any other

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Dominican citizen he has the right to return to his country. It claimed that Wessin had arisen to be a political figure because the Balaguer Government had prohibited his return to the Dominican Republic, adding that the same thing had happened to Balaguer when he was exiled from the country.

CRIMMINS

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by J.J.D.UNCLASSIFIED