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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO: Amconsulate SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

SUBJECT : Balaguer and Political Parties Comment on Wessinis

REF :

HANDLING INDICATOR

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Nov 11 11 35 AM 1967

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ANALYSIS
DATE: 9 NOV 67

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1. Interviewed by the press on November 3, President Balaguer declined to comment concerning the continuing efforts of ex-General Elías WESSIN y Wessin to return to the DR. In a "democratic regime such as that which now exists," Balaguer noted, "all Dominicans have a right to form political parties and participate in the forthcoming elections." This statement was interpreted--and headlined--by Listín Diario as evidence that Balaguer would accept a Wessin role in the 1968 municipal elections.

2. Social Christian President Caonabo Javier C. quickly expressed strong disagreement with President Balaguer. Wessin is an "incompetent", Javier charged, whose knowledge of military matters in no way qualifies him to participate in politics. Besides, he added, the Dominican people have demonstrated a desire for peace, and "Wessin represents everything contrary to this felt need for peace." Reiterating previous Social Christian statements that every Dominican has a right to live in his country, Javier lamented the nation's "political tradition" of making a martyr of any "simpleton"(i.e. Wessin), solely by keeping him in exile and providing him a "halo of laughable martyrdom." If Wessin wishes to be a politician, let him daily demonstrate to the people his political capacity and patriotic attitude, Javier suggested. As for the PQD, he compared it with a "balloon, which with the slightest pin prick, disinflates." The entire movement is a "momentary passion of individuals (including a number of Reformistas) who believe they see some political future in Wessin," Javier concluded.

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3. The communist Movimiento Popular Dominicano (MPD) also had several comments to make. On October 31, Listin published an MPD denunciation that the objective of the PQD is to overthrow the GODR. Then, on November 5, El Nacional carried a further MPD statement, alleging that the US is working openly for the militarization of Latin America, with an eye on future military clashes in the Far East. Thus, according to the MPD, the US is planning to replace Balaguer with Wessin, in order to more easily reach agreement on the sending of Dominican troops to fight in Viet Nam.

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