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TO : Department of State

INFO : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

RECEIVED
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SEP 2 11 07 AM 1969

RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amconsulate SANTIAGO DE LOS
CABALLEROS

DATE: 27 AUG 69

SUBJECT : An Encounter with the PQD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
SEP 4 - 1969

REF :

1. On August 21, 1969, the reporting officer stopped by the local headquarters of the Partido Quisqueyano Democrata (PQD) in Santiago to pay a brief call on provincial party leader Arcadio VALLE. Although Valle was not in the building, two PQD members who introduced themselves as the secretaries for rural and urban organization in Santiago proudly showed the reporting officer an envelope full of papers which they said were lists of PQD committees in the province. The rural director delivered a short harangue emphasizing that the PQD is "pro-Yankee", anti-communist and a strong supporter of the Dominican armed forces. He offered to invite the reporting officer to a meeting with party leaders but the latter declined, stating that he merely wished to make an informal call on Mr. Valle. In a confidential tone, the rural secretary, whose unshaven face and large paunch confirmed his title, told the reporting officer that President Balaguer was a dangerous man with communist leanings as evidenced by extremists in his government such as Director of Tourism Angel MIOLAN. On this enlightened note the reporting officer offered his excuses and departed politely, fending off two requests for visa favors on the way out.

2. Later in the morning the reporting officer, armed with Mr. Arcadio Valle's business address, visited one of the more "popular" sections of downtown Santiago where Mr. Valle owns a Texaco gas station. After several inquiries Valle appeared and invited me to chat in a nearby notions store belonging to his brother, Domingo Valle. Arcadio, who described himself as a disillusioned Reformista, proved virtually incapable of carrying on a coherent political conversation. He spoke vaguely of ex-General Wessin y Wessin's

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-yr.intervals;
not automatically declassified.

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

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RBH by LRC

Clearances:

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Authority NND 969002

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popularity at the national level but could offer no clues concerning the PQD's political program beyond stating that the party stands for good, strong government. He had no specific feelings about the possibility of President Balaguer running for office again except to mutter that an electoral campaign with Balaguer as a candidate might not be fair and free of official pressure. He had no observations to offer regarding the split between Balaguer and Vice President Francisco Augusto LORA, which seemed beyond his sphere of interest. Arcadio implied that all candidates other than Wessin were too weak and insignificant to discuss, although his attitude was obviously shaped by the absence of any ideas on the subject other than contempt for Wessin's political opponents. He assured the reporting officer that Wessin would remain in the presidential race until the final vote is tallied but seemed to relent when his brother Domingo, an ex-Reformista "independent", remarked that anything is possible in politics. Arcadio indicated that PQD finances were adequate in Santiago, adding that he was a major contributor. He said that the PQD radio program Vértice Quisqueyano is broadcast daily in Santiago but is not always heard clearly due to jamming by another station located near La Cumbre on the road to Puerto Plata. Arcadio had a habit of laughing at his own clichés which were frequently offered as comment or answers to the reporting officer's questions. A well-intentioned, good-natured individual, he merely seemed to lack any qualifications for leadership other than loyalty. Brother Domingo, who reportedly served as Reformista Vice President of the Santiago Municipal Council from 1966-1968, was far more intelligent and articulate than Arcadio. On several occasions he tried to put words in his brother's mouth, but the effort was wasted as Arcadio failed to recognize his cues.

3. Comment: Few political leaders in Santiago consider Wessin y Wessin a leading presidential contender, although they acknowledge that he has some military support and a potential following among campesinos and frustrated members of the lower middle class. Arcadio Valle appears to fall in the latter category. With provincial leaders of Valle's caliber it is questionable that the PQD alone could make Wessin a serious contender for the presidency in 1970. In alliance with another political group such as the Loristas the PQD might emerge as a significant political force. Such an alliance, however, would probably require Wessin to abandon his presidential candidacy in return for the promise of a cabinet level appointment; for example that of Secretary of State for the Armed Forces. As things stand now, Wessin is a colorful addition to an otherwise bland group of prospective candidates, but color alone will not compensate for the likes of Arcadio Valle.

JOH
HOWARD RBA
by LRF

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