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1. Introduction

The week in the Dominican Republic assumed a much more clearly recognizable political character centered mainly around internal developments; Haitian-DR relations came into the picture, however, as El Caribe initiated a three-day run of Haitian-baiting "news" reports. Vice President Lora's announced candidacy for the 1970 elections prompted little comment or excitement inasmuch as Lora had been building up to this for some months. Major press attention was given to charges and countercharges on the subject of who did what to whom and where during the first few days of the April 1965 revolution; the series of statements from a number of PRD or ex-PRD sources stemmed from the incidents at a pro-Bonnely gathering on September 28 and the content of the statements is now referred to in Santo Domingo as the "political denuding" of one's opponents. Reaction to the

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Bolivian golpe was cautious and mixed but generally critical. The week seemed to be at least as much one of political "fun and games" in the Dominican style as it was one of serious developments. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Vice President Throws Hat in Ring

Vice President Francisco Augusto LORA, in an evening nation-wide radio-television address on September 30, formally announced his candidacy for the 1970 presidential elections. The announcement came as no surprise. The Vice President said that Balaguer's tacit rejection of his (Lora's) proposal of August 30 that they jointly renounce presidential aspirations for the 1970-1974 term had convinced him that the President and his followers have no intention of desisting in their pursuit of reelection and that Lora has now no other choice but to take the issue to the voters. Lora expressed his intention to work within the Reformista Party and said that with a secret vote at the party's convention he could secure the nomination; he implied that in the event he does not receive the party's nod, he and those Reformistas loyal to the principles of the PR will continue the fight. Lora held out at length on why Balaguer should not seek renomination, denounced the "moral and physical violence" being carried out by reelectionists and severely criticized the "isolated cases" of military and police personnel "who bring disgrace to their respective services by unabashedly engaging in reelectionist activity". Lora called for a reorientation of the Armed Forces and the National Police through training and example and for their remaining aloof from partisan politics. The Vice President said that if he were elected the first official act of his administration would be to seek a constitutional amendment prohibiting presidential reelection. Lora ended his speech with a fleeting mention of programs he would carry out as president, including a "true agrarian reform", increased agricultural and industrial productivity, tax reform, etc. (SD-3040 and A-351). (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. PRD Notes

The bitter conflict between abstentionist and pro-election forces within the PRD continued to dominate the party this week, with related developments and debates waxing ever more public and acrimonious. Much of the storm began with and centered around the attempt of some pro-Bonnelly PRDers (the so-called "hibridistas") to hold an indoor "pre-candidacy" rally at the Teatro Cupido (see WPR #37). Party Secretary General José Francisco PEÑA Gómez had earlier gone on the air to warn the faithful that any PRD leaders attending the "illegal" rally would be subject to disciplinary action, including immediate suspension from their party functions. As though taking their cue

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from Peña Gómez' speech, supporters of the "hard line" invaded the theatre, completely frustrating the rally with continuous shouting of slogans and threatened physical aggression. Leading hibridista Luis LEMBERT Peguero immediately charged Peña Gómez and Jottin CURY with responsibility for the disorders, and further stirred up a wasps' nest by alleging that the 1965 revolution failed because (Constitutionalist) President Rafael MOLINA Ureña and Peña Gómez had sought asylum at the height of the fighting. Lember's charges were followed in short order by (a) a lengthy and historically interesting rebuttal by Peña Gómez, who said the "only hero" of the 1965 revolt was "the Dominican people"; (b) a refusal by Bonnelly to comment upon the recent PRD-related developments; (c) the charge that Jottin Cury's wife had been rudely treated by a group of hibridistas; (d) return blasts against Peña Gómez by Lember Peguero and fellow Bonnelly supporter Marino VILLANUEVA; (e) a downtown scuffle between Lember and a group of "Dictatorship With Popular Support" enthusiasts; (f) an allegation by (GODR) Secretary of Finance Antonio MARTINEZ Francisco that the person responsible for the failure of the Constitutionalist revolution was in fact Juan BOSCH -- for allowing it to degenerate into civil war; and (g) a defense of his 1965 role by Molina Ureña. At week's end two erstwhile PRD Deputies (García Godoy supporters Luis VARGAS and José Joaquín RAMÍREZ) had quit the party, which action appeared at least partly precipitated by the week's developments; and FETRUDISNA (the PRD's labor federation in the National District) leader Pedro Julio EVANGELISTA said he would resign his party position, charging "ingratitude" and placing the blame for most of his discontent upon the shoulders of the PRD's radical Secretary of Organization, "Rafa" GAMUNDI Cordero (Gamundi retorted that Evangelista and other "traitors" were serving "the forces of the enemy", i.e., the "oligarchy" and "yankee imperialism").

In other developments this week: (a) 24 professionals were inducted into the PRD, in an infusion of new blood welcomed publicly (and perhaps ominously) by Jottin Cury; (b) Peña Gómez announced that Juan Bosch (in company with Héctor ARISTY) would leave September 27 for a tour of North Korea, North Viet-Nam, Cambodia, and Communist China (the latter as the result of an invitation from Chairman Mao); (c) quixotic presidential aspirant ex-Admiral Homero LAJARA Burgos said that Juan Bosch was unopposed to his candidacy, but would leave it to the PRD to decide; (d) Senator Pablo Rafael CASIMIRO Castro announced that he, Peña Gómez, Antonio GUZMAN and other PRD notables (including newly-arrived Julio César CASTAÑOS Espailat and Marcio MEJIA-RICART) would conduct an anti-electionist orientation tour of Dajabón and Monte Cristi Provinces; and (e) the PCD again went on public record as favoring an anti-reelection front looking toward the establishment of a government based on "Dictatorship with Popular Support". (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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Comment: The resignations of Deputies Vargas and Ramirez came as no surprise to anyone, as they had made their positions clear for some time. Both told Embassy officers this week that they believed Peña Gómez had overreacted badly against the Bonnelly rally, and that if left alone it would have died a natural death; they also stated that they expected many other PRDers to follow them out of the party (the press quoted one unnamed PRD Deputy as saying the moment was "just around the corner" when 8 or 10 more opposition legislators would opt out of the PRD). (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. New Police Chief Named

President Balaguer this week named 34-year old Rafael Guillermo GUZMAN Acosta as the new Chief of the National Police, the sixth since the President took office in 1966. Guzman Acosta replaces Brig. Gen. Joaquín MENDEZ Lara, a career Army officer, who was named Inspector General of the Army (SD-2995). The President also named Col. Robinson BREA Garó, former police commander in Santiago and Barahona, as the new subchief replacing GUZMAN Acosta.

Several days after his appointment the new chief announced a shake up of the top command, reshuffling some 22 officers including the heads of the Secret Service and Criminal Investigations. Lt. Col. Luis ARENZO Regalado, former head of the Traffic Division, is the new head of the Secret Service replacing Major Norvo Antonio PEREZ who was named head of Information and Public Relations. The former chief of Public Relations, Col. Bolívar SOTO Montás, was appointed head of the Judicial Bureau replacing Lt. Col. Eladio LOZADA Grullón who was shifted to another post at police headquarters. The new head of Criminal Investigations is Col. Manuel DESPRADEL Brache who was replaced as Commander of La Victoria prison by Col. Manuel de Jesus NIN Melo. Despradel replaces Major Antonio DE LIMA Merino who becomes an inspector at headquarters. Col. Alejandro de LA PAZ de León replaced Col. Brea Garó as commander in Barahona. Lt. Col. Servio Tulio CABRERA Martínez becomes the new commander in La Vega and Lt. Col. Imirio PEREZ Nauts in San Pedro de Macorís. The former Commander in San Pedro de Macorís, Lt. Col. Maximo GUERRO Arias was named head of the Radio Patrol. At week's end it was announced that the homicide squad and the criminal investigation department would be consolidated under the leadership of Col. Despradel. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Our AID Public Safety advisors consider both Guzmán Acosta and Brea Garó two of the best qualified officers in the National Police. The other changes, described by the police as "routine", seem to indicate that the new chief intends to move quickly to put his personal stamp on the police department which has again recently come under heavy attack from various opposition parties and other sectors of the community both for disregarding "human rights" and for not solving serious crimes. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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5. Dominican Commentary on Bolivian Coup

The Dominican press gave extensive news coverage to the September 26 ouster of Bolivian President Adolfo Siles Salinas, but editorial and other comment was light and cautious. El Caribe deplored the coup, saying the LA military are mistaken in thinking they constitute panaceas for the existing social and economic ills on the continent; on the contrary, the editorial continued, they (the LA military golpistas) will only produce more problems than they solve. La Información of Santiago made a qualified comparison between the Bolivian military and that of Peru and used both events to show the need for Washington policymakers to "dust off" the Rockefeller report. Rightist El Tiempo came up with a long, rambling and seemingly pointless editorial which concluded by gratuitously advising the GODR to await events before taking a position. El Nacional cautioned against haste in comparing the Ovando regime with that of Gen. Velasco, recalling the alleged central role played by Gen. Ovando in the murder of Ernesto "Che" Guevara. The Communist Movimiento Popular Dominicano (MPD) issued a press statement supporting "in principle" the Bolivian golpe, but, echoing El Nacional's reservations, deferred more definitive support for the time being. President Joaquín Balaguer, in a press interview September 28, declined specific comment on the coup, saying only that he was unimpressed with nationalism as a justification for violent changes of government. (SD-3022) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: A Foreign Secretariat spokesman told an Embassy officer that GODR recognition of the Ovando government would not be soon forthcoming. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Dominican-Haitian Relations

The arrest ("a simple detention for personal reasons", according to the Dominican Ambassador to Haiti) of the Haitian chauffeur of the DR Ambassador in Port-au-Prince sparked a series of front-page "news" stories this week about Haitian-Dominican relations. Haitian-baiting El Caribe, reporting the arrest as a kidnapping (and later in an editorial page cartoon claiming the driver was a Dominican), started things off with three front-page stories, one of which alleged that relations between the two countries had deteriorated almost to the "maximum point", early in the week. Other papers soon joined in, mostly reporting reactions to the earlier Caribe stories. Reporters questions to President Balaguer, who denied charges that Haitian President Duvalier was attempting to "pressure" the GODR or that DR Ambassador Fausto GUZMAN Cabrera had been recalled, kept the issue alive for another day. By week's end it appeared that this latest Caribbean tempest would soon be reduced to but another tropical low. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: A Foreign Secretariat source told an Embassy officer that the Secretariat was indeed concerned about future developments in Haiti but that this concern was not related to the current spate of reports and

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rumors. The source indicated that the GODR did not intend to become involved in the latest press reports but would try to keep the affair toned down to the extent possible. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. MPD States Its Position on Current Political Issues

The GODR's decision to permit political demonstrations by recognized political parties, the crisis within the PRD, and "official terrorism" were the subjects of a paid advertisement printed in El Nacional on September 28 by the Movimiento Popular Dominicano (MPD). In the ad, the MPD declared the above to be "three elements which are uniting to enable the national government to lead the people to the polls in May 1970 like cattle sent to the slaughterhouse," and proceeded to spell out its position on each issue.

The decision to permit political demonstrations, the MPD reasoned, "is the only means by which Balaguer can effectively prevent the anti-government right from taking a revolutionary and violent road". The MPD predictably explained that revolution and violence were, "the only form of preventing reelection and continuism," and therefore declared its opposition to the new GODR policy.

Turning its attention to what was described as the pro-election/anti-election "crisis" within the PRD, the MPD delivered an attack against Bonnelly and the "Hybrid Formula", and announced that neither the PRD nor the parties of the communist left could permit themselves "to favor reelection by omission". To avoid this, the MPD stated that Peña Gómez had to "mobilize" his party masses, "use all disciplinary means to insure that all PRDers follow the party line", "engage actively in demonstrations against reelection and terrorism," and "condition participation in the 1970 elections upon Balaguer's not running".

The MPD called the last item, "official" terrorism, "the nerve center of Balaguerist policy" and declared that "in order to maintain itself in power Balaguerism has to employ a level of repression even greater than that permitted by its reactionary constitution". The only way to resist "official terrorism" and to stop the present wave of political killings, the MPD concluded "is to answer blow for blow, and to multiply their violence a hundredfold, leading to the restoration of an anti-Balaguer government of transition". (UNCLASSIFIED)

8. CASC Charges GODR Owes RD\$26 Million to IDSS

Luis Henry MOLINA and Francisco Antonio SANTOS, leaders of the Confederación Autónoma de Sindicatos Cristianos (CASC) charged this week that the government owes RD\$26 million to the Dominican Social Security Institute (IDSS) and that in addition the State Sugar Council (CEA) owes RD\$8 million in contributions not paid by its predecessor agency the Dominican Sugar Corporation. The two CASC leaders, who represent the

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labor sector on the IDSS board of directors, also severely criticized the functioning of the entire Dominican Social Security system alleging that IDSS limits itself to some medical assistance and little ("inhuman and ridiculous") economic aid. They claimed that most of the pensions paid to disabled workers amounted to RD\$10 or RD\$20 monthly. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The problem pointed to by the CASC leaders is mentioned periodically in the press and elsewhere. It should be recalled that Molina was also actively involved in the 1964-1965 series of strikes against the Triumvirate with the strikes based in large part on this same problem in the IDSS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

9. Other Developments

In other developments this week a) Foreign Secretary Fernando AMIAMA Tió, in a television report to the nation, stressed the DR's favorable foreign investment climate, civil aviation problems, and Caribbean trade matters; b) later in the week the Foreign Secretary departed for an official 3-day visit to Nicaragua; c) Ramón Castillo, former Dominican Consul General in New York, was appointed a special assistant (with the rank of Secretary of State) to President Balaguer; d) Dr. Yudez HASBUN was named Counselor of the Dominican Embassy in Washington replacing Alfredo RICART (several sources at the Foreign Secretariat said they did not know Sr. Hasbun and had no knowledge of his background); e) President Balaguer and Marsh Cooper, President of Falconbridge, signed the agreements covering the firm's contemplated investment in a ferronickel mining-processing complex; f) two persons were wounded and about 20 arrested as a result of a gun battle between members of two rival taxi unions, UNACHOSIN and ANCHODE; g) Santo Domingo Mayor Guarionex LLUBERES, who is also President of the National District directorate of the Partido Reformista (PR), announced that PR Deputy Domingo Porfirio ROJAS Nina (who is also an assistant secretary general of the PR) would be submitted to disciplinary action for giving written orders to a police guard to prevent two National District party leaders from entering Reformista headquarters; and finally h) yet another new political party, the Movimiento de Recuperación Nacional (MRN) announced it was gathering signatures in order to seek recognition by the Central Electoral Board. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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