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NND: 34928

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FROM : Amembassy SANTO DOMINGO

DATE: November 10, 1969

SUBJECT : Weekly Political Review No. 43 (Oct. 31-Nov. 6, 1969)

REF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
NOV 17 1969

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1. Introduction

Domestically, the student disorders, which had assumed nationwide importance the previous week, were reduced in intensity and both secondary and university students (with some exceptions) were back in class by mid-week. However, the possibility of further problems remains high and the bond forged between UNPHU, UCMM and UASD students plus demands by UCMM and UNPHU students represent significant implications for the future. The announced screening of the police and other police-related news also received prominent coverage in the press. This issue is also not likely to disappear quickly from the public scene. There are, however, more disquieting elements present on the scene. We are detecting more and more in various sectors a certain

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See last page: amw:ghb:11/7/69

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Clearances:

POL:JCHaahr/ AID/PSD:AARuiz (draft)

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pessimism and even uneasiness about the future course of political developments in the DR. This attitude is shaped in part by the increasing belligerent tone of the PRD and by Wessin's apparently increased willingness to toy with the idea of extra-constitutional measures. Most of the uneasiness, however, seems to point to the period after the beginning of the new year rather than the immediate future. Internationally, President Nixon's speech on Vietnam produced no official reaction and only one editorial. The President's Latin American speech, however, was commented upon favorably by President Balaguer and was generally viewed as a positive step forward in press editorials. Opposition parties of the left predictably stressed the necessity of "deeds not words". (CONFIDENTIAL)

2. Reaction to President Nixon's Latin American Speech

Reaction to President Nixon's speech on Latin American policy was generally favorable in the D.R., although some editorials and most opposition political parties which have commented stressed the necessity for following through on the President's words with appropriate action. President Balaguer told the Ambassador that he considered President Nixon's tone serious and constructive and said he was particularly gratified by planned efforts to ease trade restrictions. In a highly favorable press release President Balaguer gave special praise to portions of the speech calling for increased reliance on CIAP, negotiation of tariff preferences for developing countries, liberalization of "tied dollars" and the creation of the position of Under Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs.

The country's leading opposition party, the PRD, has not yet publicly commented on the speech. However [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the reaction of PRD Secretary General José Francisco PENA Gómez was on the whole positive, although he expressed the usual caveat concerning the need to implement words with deeds. The PRSC, too, said it would judge U.S. policy by actions not words, adding that nevertheless the President's words constituted a pledge of action. The reaction of presidential aspirant Hector GARCIA GODOY was likewise generally positive, but he said he feared that President Nixon's comment that the U.S. was prepared to deal at the diplomatic level with all governments in the hemisphere "opens the possibility of new overthrows of freely elected governments". (SD-4264, 4265, 4276, 4296, 4331). (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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3. Student Situation Returns to Near Normal

By week's end all secondary schools in Santo Domingo and other parts of the country were back to normal after last week's disruptions sparked by the shooting and killing of a teacher by a policeman (WPR #42). Secondary school teachers agreed to return to their classrooms and urged students to do the same after police Chief Brig. Gen. Rafael Guillermo GUZMAN Acosta gave "precise instructions" to police to "guard and make effective the most absolute guarantees" to which teachers are entitled.

At Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra (UCMM) in Santiago, classes, suspended since October 30, resumed on November 4 without further incident. UCMM students, however, declared they would accept no disciplinary action against any student involved in last week's events and demanded that the student body be given representation on the Superior Council of the University.

Meanwhile, at Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña (UNPHU) classes in the Faculty of Education resumed on November 6; all other classes are scheduled to reopen on November 10. On November 6 some 200 UNPHU students protested the Academic Council's decision to expell six and suspend nine others (from two months to the remainder of the semester) for violating the "institutional order" of the University. (UASD Rector Andres AYBAR Nicolas immediately offered to enroll the expelled and suspended students at the Autonomous University.) Some demonstrations at UNPHU will probably continue next week when most of the university's students are back on campus.

Early in the week an explosive device which wounded one person was thrown into the headquarters of the Movimiento Nacional de la Juventud (MNJ) during a protest march by secondary school students who shouted "down with Balaguer" and "Balaguer murderer". The MNJ, however, blamed "reactionary forces" for the incident. Another group of students attacked a police station with rocks. During yet another student protest demonstration unknown persons threw one explosive device against downtown offices of the First National City Bank. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. PRD Notes

In a 45-minute discourse by Secretary General PEÑA Gómez, delivered Nov. 1 over the PRD radio program Tribuna Democrática, the party issued its apparently definitive rebuttal to President Balaguer's hard-hitting speech of October 28 (in which the President banned further outdoor rallies of the PRD). The most

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important points of Peña Gómez' reply were: (a) Balaguer, alarmed by the success of the PRD's October 26 manifestation in Santiago, had in fact declared the "partial illegalization" of the party; (b) it was the President himself and not the PRD who was violating the Constitution; (c) civil disobedience may be justified and necessary under certain conditions; (d) although the PRD does not believe an appropriate electoral climate exists to allow its electoral participation, the party has not entirely discarded elections as tactical weapons; (e) along with screening the National Police, the President should order the reintegration of the Constitutionalist police and military; (f) the measures taken by the GODR to halt taxi crimes (Item 6) will most likely affect only the Constitutionalist members of the UNACHOSIN chauffeurs union; (g) the PRD will continue holding indoor protest meetings throughout the interior; (h) if the government does not alter its course, "with or without the PRD there will be another April 24"; (i) the Balaguer Government is conducting "economic aggression" against the Santo Domingo city government because Mayor Guarionex LLUBERES Montás refuses to support Balaguer's reelection; (j) the PRD Parliamentary Bloc will not quit Congress; and (k) the President should not dream of four more years in the National Palace but should be satisfied if he is allowed to complete his present term in office.

In other PRD-related news this week (a) party mentor Juan BOSCH was reported to be enjoying the Cambodian chapter of his far-eastern odyssey; (b) Senator CASIMIRO Castro went on the air to address the "repressive minority" within the National Police, and to warn them that they must mend their ways and turn on to the revolution or be prepared to drop out of the Dominican Republic; and (c) Vice President Francisco Augusto LORA joined other oppositionist voices in decrying the Balaguer ban on outdoor PRD meetings. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: The relatively quiet PRD reaction to President Balaguer's speech may partially have been explained by Senator Casimiro Castro, who told an Embassy officer that the PRD, by the "moderation" of its recently violent propaganda line (Casimiro himself was one of the most violent) was determined to show the President that the party was capable of policing itself and was not a subversive organization. However, while Casimiro's explanation may apply to the party "moderates", we are more inclined to believe that the PRD is not at all eager to get back in the risky outdoor-rally business, and that the normally vociferous "radicals" are not terribly displeased by the so-called "partial illegalization" of the PRD, which situation strengthens their hands vis-a-vis the pro-electionists. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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5. Police Retire 3 Colonels

Three high-ranking police officers, Colonels Gaspar MORATO Pimentel, Manuel de Jesús NIN Melo and Isidoro DE LOS SANTOS Brito, were involuntarily retired from service this week. In a paid newspaper ad two of them complained to President Balaguer that their retirement at a time when the Chief Executive had ordered an immediate and exhaustive screening of undesirable elements within the police force had created the false impression that their retirement was part of that process. In fact, their retirement was probably due to the well-publicized efforts of the new Police Commander, Brig. Gen. GUZMAN Acosta to improve the administrative capability of his staff and to give the police a better public image.

In other police news this week, it was announced that at least two policemen will be tried for beating an activist of the pro-Lora, Movimiento de Integración Democrática (MIDA) in San Jose de las Matas last weekend.

Meanwhile, responding to reporters' questions, Guzman Acosta said that police agents would "respond in kind" to physical attacks against them. He was referring to an incident this week when a police patrol was fired on in barrio Guachapita. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

6. Screening of Taxi Drivers

Following President Balaguer's speech (WPR #42), representatives of the several taxi drivers trade unions met this week with the Chief of the National Police to work out details of the screening process. The day of the meeting, UNACHOSIN published a full-page ad in Nacional rejecting the screening proposal and asserting that it would undertake a series of partial work stoppages if other demands were not met, i.e. an end to political repression, resolution of the Segarra case, etc. However, UNACHOSIN together with the leaders of the two other taxi drivers unions did agree with the Police Chief that each taxi would carry a card inside with the driver's photograph and registration number. Subsequently, however, both houses of Congress gave preliminary approval to a bill which would require that the card also carry the driver's name. The agreement reached with the Police Chief was thus modified in this single but important (to UNACHOSIN) aspect. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: UNACHOSIN's blast in Nacional was generally viewed in labor circles as a face-saving gesture since UNACHOSIN knew

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in advance that the screening move would be supported by ANCHODE and the "Frente" and thus would be forced to accept it as well. UNACHOSIN opposes the card bearing the driver's name on the grounds that many "revolutionaries and ex-Constitutionalists" will be more easily identified by the police and thus subject to alleged persecution. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

7. Lluberes May Seek Another Term

Despite repeated statements in the past that he would not seek another term as mayor of Santo Domingo, Guarionex LLUBERES said this week that he had promised a group of city employees that he would run again. He added, however, that the final decision depended on "political circumstances". The Mayor also said that he had not decided whether to run on the Reformista ticket or under some other sponsorship, but added he believed a political group now legally registered had the necessary principles to satisfy his personal concerns. The PRSC immediately denied that it was the party the Mayor had in mind.

Comment:

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Lluberes may indeed be considering seriously the political advantages of serving again as Santo Domingo's Mayor rather than the dubious advantages to be gained from running as Lora's vice presidential candidate. Any decision on his part to run for Sindico again could have a significant effect on Lora's presidential possibilities in that a strong potential running mate would have been removed from the ticket. (CONFIDENTIAL)

8. President, Mayor in Dispute over Water Service

Although at his mid-week press conference President Balaguer backed off somewhat from his reported threat to cut GODR subsidies to cities which refuse water service to government departments (the President claimed he had been misquoted), the disagreement between Santo Domingo's Mayor Guarionex LLUBERES Montás and the central government over the issue continues. The city (which, according to the Mayor, faces a serious financial crisis), claiming that several government agencies are behind in payments for water by as much as a year, shut off water service to four of them. This action brought forth the President's original threat to reduce subsidies. Mayor Lluberes, in turn, termed the President's threat a "declaration of war" and said the Ayuntamiento would continue to suspend service to any official institution owing for more than three months service. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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The only significant reaction to President Nixon's address on the Vietnam war came from rightist El Tiempo which praised the speech as a "lesson in responsibility and conscience". El Tiempo said the war could be called a "necessary and vital" one, adding that if the U.S. accepted the pressures of crypto-communism disguised as pacifism and liberalism it would not be long until the ominous results became apparent. The paper added that the war and its result affected all the world and not just Southeast Asia. (UNCLASSIFIED)

10. Other Developments

In other developments this week a) the Chamber of Deputies acted to prolong the present legislative session another 90 days (the Senate was expected to follow suit); b) on November 4 the Central Electoral Board granted legal recognition to Hector GARCIA GODOY's Movimiento de Conciliación Nacional (MCN); c) harvesting of the current crop of sugar cane began at some mills on November 1; d) the Dominican Medical Association threatened a nation-wide strike if the GODR continues to ignore the Association's suggestions for dealing with the country's "critical problems of public health"; e) the trial of PRD Deputy Miguel Angel RUIZ Lama, accused of killing a PQD leader last year, was again postponed, this time until November 17, because several witnesses failed to show; f) the trial of 37 PRD activists arrested in connection with Gualley affair on October 26 was postponed until December 8; all are free on bail; g) although not discounting some future union with other political groups willing to accept its principles, the PQD denied that the party had made arrangements or had discussed unification with any other political sector; h) the Juventud Comunista (JC), youth arm of PACOREDO, denounced Juan BOSCH's "Dictatorship with Popular Support" as "opportunistic" and accused the PRD of assaulting JC members during the Gualley incident; i) President Balaguer promulgated a recently passed law which sets a minimum salary of RD\$150 monthly for all chauffeurs employed by the GODR or its autonomous institutions; originally the measure established the same minimum for privately employed chauffeurs as well; j) President Balaguer submitted for Congressional consideration a draft law raising Dominican Consular fees, proceeds of which (estimated at US\$100,000) would be used to help cover the country's UN and OAS dues; k) Wessin stated in a radio interview that he was opposed to golpes as a means of changing governments but went

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on to add that some political forces could come to the conclusion that a golpe would be less prejudicial than a complete loss of liberties; and finally 1) the car of pro-reelectionist Eleodoro DE LOS SANTOS was totally destroyed by a bomb.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

J.E.M.

MELOY

by J.J.Q.

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