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**INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

**DOMINICAN ELECTIONS**

**DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE**

Office of Current Intelligence

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OCI No. 1163/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
29 March 1966

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican ElectionsIntroduction

On 1 June 1966, for the second time in their history, the people of the Dominican Republic are scheduled to go to the polls in free, democratic elections to elect a president, vice president, members of the legislature, and municipal officials.

The elections of 20 December 1962 which saw the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) headed by Juan Bosch win an overwhelming majority of the elective offices attracted over one million voters.

The 1 June elections will follow the system used in 1962. It can be expected to provide reasonably honest elections; above all, it has the great advantage of simplicity, which is necessary in a politically unsophisticated country with a high rate of illiteracy.

Date of Election: 1 June 1966.

Population: Estimated 3.3 - 3.5 million.

Eligible Voters: Potential voting population estimated at 1.6 - 1.7 million.

Requirements for Voting: Citizenship is held by all Dominicans over 18 years of age and by those who are or have been married, regardless of age. In theory, all citizens are required to vote; however, those who have lost their political rights and members of the armed forces and police are forbidden to vote. Also excused from the mandatory vote are persons

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over 70, those who are more than 100 kilometers from the polling place on election day, and those who are ill or who for certifiable reasons cannot go to the polls. Fines ranging from \$10 to \$200 are established for those who fail to vote without sufficient reason.

Offices to Be Filled: Offices of president and vice president; 27 senatorial seats (one for each of the 26 provinces and one for the National District); 74 members of the Chamber of Deputies (9 for the National District; 6 for Santiago; 5 each for La Vega and San Cristobal; 3 each for Duarte, Puerto Plata, and San Juan de la Maguana; and 2 each for the remaining 20 provinces); 77 mayors and 417 municipal councilmen. Also to be elected are substitutes for all positions except for the offices of president and vice president. (See Attachment #1 for results of December 1962 elections. Attachment #2 shows breakdown of total votes cast for president and members of congress by province.)

Terms of Office: The president, vice president, and senators are elected by a simple plurality; members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected on the basis of population, except that no province shall seat fewer than two deputies. The term of office for president, vice president, and members of the national congress is four years; mayors and municipal councilmen are elected for two years.

Qualifications to Hold Office: To be president of the republic, a candidate must be at least 30 years of age, a Dominican by birth or origin, and have full enjoyment of his civil and political rights. A candidate for the office of member or alternate member of the legislative chambers must be a Dominican, at least 28 years of age, a native of the district that is to elect him or a resident of that district for at least five years.

Of particular note is the fact that, under the provisions of the Institutional Act, no member of the Provisional Government may be a candidate for any elective office.

Competing Parties: Eight non-Communist parties have been recognized by the Central Electoral Board as eligible to participate. They are: the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD); Reformist Party (PR); National Civic Union (UCN); Revolutionary Social Christian

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Party (PRSC); Nationalist Democratic Revolutionary Party (PNRD); Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard (VRD); Liberal Evolutionist Party (PLE); and the Social Democratic Alliance (ASD).

Four others--one of which is the pro-Communist 14th of June Revolutionary Movement (MR-1J4)--requested recognition. The Institutional Act specifically states that only those parties that are organized for peaceful purposes compatible with the principles of a representative democracy may participate in elections. However, Provisional President Garcia Godoy has announced that regardless of their ideological line, the parties that meet the requirements set by law will be able to take part in the elections. According to Dominican electoral legislation, a party must show registration equal to 3 percent of the electorate of the 20 December 1962 elections to qualify as a legal political party. Also, to maintain recognition, a party must poll at least 3 percent of the popular vote in a general election or elect a representative to Congress to remain in existence.

Selection of Slates: On 3 March Provisional President Garcia Godoy set elections for 1 June 1966. He also directed the Central Electoral Board (CEB) to issue no later than two months before the date determined by the president a formal proclamation announcing the elections. This proclamation, published on 18 March, enumerates the elective positions to be filled in the National District and in each province and municipality and officially opens the door to the nomination of slates of candidates by eligible political parties. After the parties have chosen their candidates--a total of 105 nominating conventions will be held--the CEB and its dependent boards will pass on the party nominees at a meeting in which each party may challenge the candidates of another. Parties must submit their slates by 20 April to be considered by the CEB. The CEB has five days in which to approve or reject the slates submitted. Once the various slates are approved, the CEB will order the printing of ballots.

Preparation of Ballots: Approximately 1.5 million "short" ballots must be prepared for each party which has a candidate for the national elections. In addition, similarly large quantities of

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the "long" ballot must be prepared for all candidates other than those for presidential and vice presidential office. The task is further complicated by the fact that the ballots for each municipality carry different names for the lower offices.

The use of colored ballots to distinguish the various parties is favored as a means of aiding illiterate voters to select the ballot of the party for which they wish to vote. Five colors have been selected for use: yellow, pink, green, blue, and white. To distinguish between more than five parties several color combinations will be used as a border on a white ballot. The ballots will also carry the emblems of the parties. Once the ballots are printed, they are to be distributed to the municipal boards, which then deliver them to the president and secretary of each mesa electoral--polling place--along with ballot envelopes, and other materials to be used. The most important item included in this package is the special seal which each poll will have for stamping its ballots, voting envelopes, tally sheets, etc.

Electoral Machinery: The Dominican electoral law organizes the judicial and administrative electoral machinery as permanent organs composed of a Central Electoral Board which supervises the departmental, provincial, municipal, and National District electoral boards. The three members of the CEB are appointed by the national assembly and, ideally, have no political affiliation. The embassy has reported no derogatory information on the present members and none is believed to have strong ties to any party. The CEB appoints members of the lower boards while the municipal boards appoint the officials of the polls.

Each polling place has a staff of 12 (a president, a first and second assistant, a secretary, two registrars, and substitutes for each of these). The president and his two assistants decide questions of procedure, challenges, etc. The secretary records their acts, while the registrars enter the names of the voters in the registry books. All poll personnel are paid \$10 on election day.

In the 1962 election, there were approximately 3,500 polling places. This year there may be more

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because of an increase in population. In addition to the personnel of the various electoral boards--national, provincial, and municipal--more than 42,000 persons will be involved in the administration of the electoral process.

The CEB also names inspectors who are assigned to the electoral boards throughout the country. These inspectors observe pre-election preparations and voting procedure followed on election day.

The Balloting: Polls open at 6 AM and close at 6 PM, unless there are voters waiting in line. The polls are assigned on a basis of population; no one poll should be required to accommodate more than 500 voters. Election day is a holiday; all places of entertainment are closed and political demonstrations of any kind are prohibited. Radio and newspaper media are prohibited from engaging in any propagandizing during this period.

It was planned to use the personal identity card for admission to the polling places in June. However, the office that controlled the issuance of these cards was in the hands of the "constitutionalists" for a long period of time and the former director of the office was a "constitutionalist." To prevent the use of false identity cards that may have been issued during this time, it was decided to issue a special electoral card. These cards are now being distributed free throughout the country to eligible voters. To obtain one a person must show his personal identity card as proof that he is eligible to vote.

The voter presents his identity card and electoral card to the president of the poll who, after examining them and finding them to be correct and that the voter's name has not been previously entered in the registry book, cuts a corner from the electoral card. The voter then takes a ballot envelope from a box; his name is registered in the registry book along with the number and series of his personal identity card. The president of the poll passes to the voter two ballots for each party entered in the election--one "short" ballot for president and vice president and one "long" ballot for the congressional and municipal candidates. The voter goes to the voting booth or room (which is private), selects a short and long ballot bearing the names of the candidates of his choice, and inserts these

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ballots into an envelope which he seals and deposits in the ballot box after leaving the voting booth. The unused ballots are left by the voter in a receptacle in the voting booth. The personal identity card is dated and stamped, indicating the bearer has voted. Also, the last finger of the voter's left hand is dipped in indelible ink to help prevent multiple voting.

The law provides that a voter unable to cast his ballot without help may be accompanied into the voting booth by a "person of confidence."

Under this system a very limited form of ticket splitting is allowed. A voter may cast one ballot for the presidential - vice presidential team and another for all other offices--senator, deputies, and municipal officials.

Voiding of Ballots: Voters may be challenged by any poll official or a representative of the parties competing in the elections. A challenged voter is allowed to cast his vote but the envelope containing his ballots is placed in another, distinctively colored envelope. The voter and the challenger are required the following day to appear before the Municipal Electoral Board which rules on the validity of the objection. If a ballot envelope contains two or more ballots of the same party only one is allowed to be counted; if it contains ballots for several parties or candidates, all are voided. Ballots which have been erased or defaced in any way will be discounted, as will ballots to which names or words have been added. Ballot boxes that contain more or less ballots than the number of voters registered in the registry book may be declared void and the election annulled if the outcome of the election depends on the counting of these ballots.

In the 1962 elections, in which over 1.1 million votes were cast, an estimated 50,000 ballots were declared void or were successfully challenged.

The Winners: The ballots are counted at the poll at the close of voting. A separate tally sheet is made for the presidential - vice presidential tickets and for the "long" ballots; the tally sheets, the ballots, and all pertinent documents are sealed in packages, placed in one large package under the seal of

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the poll and delivered to the municipal board by the president of the poll and his two assistants. Party delegates may accompany the commission if they wish. The seal is broken in public at the municipal board. After counting and tabulation of the vote by the municipal board, tally sheets and other pertinent documents are mailed under sealed cover to the provincial board. The ballots themselves, however, are retained by the municipal boards. Returns must be delivered to the CEB within three days following balloting and counting. Municipal electoral boards will proclaim the winners of the municipal contests; the provincial boards the provincial contests, etc., with boards at various levels proclaiming the victors in the races which fall within their respective jurisdictions. The final step will be the proclamation of the president and vice president by the CEB.

An indication of the outcome of the voting should be gained within 12 to 24 hours after the polls close. The outcome of the 20 December 1962 elections was apparent within two days, though the official announcement followed much later. Officially the CEB has up to 30 days to proclaim the presidential and vice presidential winners.

According to the Institutional Act, the Provisional Government shall transfer power to the elected government 30 days after elections are held.

Armed Forces and Police: With regard to the maintenance of public order, the electoral law states that, except for those police indispensable to maintain public order, the armed forces will remain in their barracks during the entire election day. The CEB shall assume command of the public forces in places where voting is held. The president of the poll can require the assistance of the public forces when it might be necessary to maintain order. Only the police in the service of the electoral authorities can enter armed into the polling places when they might be required. Otherwise, no member of the public forces can come nearer than 50 meters to the poll. However, the wording of the law suggests that the electoral authorities could call on the military if it proved necessary. Although the 27,000-odd members of the military and police are denied the vote, it is estimated that they can "deliver" anywhere from 100,000 to 300,000 votes by relatives, dependents, etc.

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The Role of the Organization of American States:  
The Institutional Act provides that the Provisional Government request the cooperation of the OAS in election preparations and the electoral process. It also states that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will be present in the Dominican Republic until an elected government takes office.

Since 10 January 1966, three OAS-appointed electoral experts have been serving the CEB in an advisory capacity. They are responsible for providing technical assistance and guidance to ensure the elections will be carried out in an efficient, orderly, and impartial manner. It has been reported that 50 foreign observers and a number of electoral technicians from the OAS will be present in the Dominican Republic on election day in an effort to instill confidence in the electoral process.

The IAPF: It is not presently anticipated that the IAPF will become involved in any phase of the electoral procedures. The Force is in the Dominican Republic to support the Provisional Government and the measures taken by that government to assure an orderly, peaceful election campaign with adequate guarantees for all who participate. Any action by the IAPF or its members which might influence, or appear to influence, the outcome of the election would be inconsistent with the IAPF's mandate.

Possibilities of Fraud: The possibilities of widespread fraud are fairly limited although the large number of personnel involved in the administration of the election is conducive to such an eventuality. The triple check imposed on the voter by requiring presentation of a personal identity card, the electoral card, and the use of indelible ink should hold multiple voting to a minimum. In the final analysis, the presence of representatives from competing parties, the electoral inspectors assigned by the CEB, and the visits of OAS observers to the polls and to the municipal offices where ballots are counted seem to constitute the most reliable means of ensuring a free and honest election.

ATTACHMENTS

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## ATTACHMENT #1

Results of the December 1962 Elections  
Issued by the Central Electoral Board

	<u>Nat'l Ticket</u>	<u>Percent of Nat'l Vote</u>	<u>Local Tickets</u>	<u>Percent of Local Vote</u>
Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD)	619,491	58.72	592,088	56.50
National Civic Union (UCN)	317,327	30.08	315,371	30.09
Revolutionary Social Christian Party (PRSC)	54,638	5.18	56,794	5.42
Nationalist Democratic Revolutionary Party (PNRD)	35,764	3.39	36,972	3.53
Social Democratic Alliance (ASD)	17,898	1.70	18,726	1.79
Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard (VRD)	6,886	.65	18,586	1.77
Nationalist Party (PN)	1,667	.16	4,161	.39
Authentic Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRDA)*	1,273	.12	5,306	.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,054,944</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,048,044</b>	<b>100.00</b>

\*The PRDA did not have a presidential candidate, its attempt to nominate ex-President Joaquin Balaguer having failed.

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## ATTACHMENT #1 (continued)

Breakdown of offices won by contending parties:

	Presi- dent	Vice Presi- dent	Senators	Deputies	Mayors	Municipal Councilmen
PRD	1	1	22	49	62	266
UCN	-	-	4	20	11	119
PRSC	-	-	-	1	-	10
PNRD	-	-	1	4	4	19
ASD	-	-	-	-	-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>417</b>

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## ATTACHMENT # 2

TOTAL VOTE 1962

<u>Province</u>	<u>Presidential</u>	<u>Congressional</u>
National District	197,256	188,036
Bahoruco	12,685	12,754
Barahona	27,520	27,952
Independencia	9,187	9,152
Pedernales	3,019	3,029
Duarte	57,546	57,546
Espaillat	44,183	43,996
La Vega	84,938	85,550
Ma Trinidad Sanchez	29,661	29,575
Salcedo	25,113	25,329
Samana	13,934	13,934
Sanchez Ramirez	29,759	29,721
Azua	21,634	21,585
Peravia	32,295	33,224
San Cristobal	82,602	83,343
Elias Pina (San Rafael)	10,620	10,612
San Juan	33,705	34,779
El Seibo	39,310	39,217
La Altagracia	21,813	20,813
La Romana	16,474	16,384

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## ATTACHMENT # 2 (Cont'd)

<u>Province</u>	<u>Presidential</u>	<u>Congressional</u>
San Pedro de Macoris	30,977	30,387
Santiago	106,220	106,132
Dajabon	12,112	12,974
Montecristi	21,509	21,557
Puerto Plata	53,401	53,338
Santiago Rodriguez	13,367	13,362
Valverde	23,875	23,723
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TOTAL	1,054,944	1,048,004

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