

OCI No. 1297/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 1
(As of 0800 A.M. EDT)

1. Joaquin Balaguer and his Reformist Party decided last night to withdraw from the Dominican presidential campaign, [redacted]

[redacted]

2. Balaguer's withdrawal from the campaign is reportedly final. His decision was reached late last night, after the central electoral board rejected his repeated proposals that Dominican women be allowed to vote without identity cards.

3. Balaguer, who seems disheartened over recent developments--and particularly over the continuing heavy rains which will cut deeply into his support in the rural areas--appears determined not to participate further in the campaign. However, a last-minute decision to continue the race cannot be ruled out.

4. Garcia Godoy will undoubtedly attempt to persuade Balaguer to reverse his decision. A Reformist Party rally scheduled for tonight could provide the forum.

[redacted]

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OCI No. 1298/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 2
(As of 4:00 PM EDT)

1. Reformist Party (PR) candidate Joaquin Balaguer's "withdrawal" from the presidential race and his cancellation of the Santo Domingo rally which was to have wound up his campaign tonight evidently are calculated to force the Central Electoral Board into meeting his demand that women be permitted to vote next Wednesday without registration cards or that voters who have applied for such cards be permitted to cast a ballot. The Board's rejection of both demands Friday evening triggered Balaguer's announcement that he was pulling out.

2.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] the PR leader reached his decision in consultation with other Reformist chieftains and acted in the belief that the country could not go to the elections without PR participation and that the various forces opposed to Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) leader Juan Bosch would not tolerate a PRD takeover. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Balaguer and the other PR leaders felt they had to withdraw in order to force the Provisional Government to move against terrorists who are mugging Reformist party members and stealing their registration cards. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

3. It is difficult to gauge the effect Balaguer's ploy may have on the momentum of his campaign. The PR leader and his cohorts are said to feel they can recover whatever ground they have lost in the past day if the

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Electoral Board accedes to any of their demands and they are thus able to open the polling places to voters--particularly women--who otherwise would be disenfranchised. For the moment, at least, they have focused public attention on the PR and its intentions. PRD candidate Bosch, who yesterday spoke out against meeting either of Balaguer's demands, can be expected to protest any concession by the Board or any move by the Provisional Government to safeguard PR voters. As for his own supporters, Bosch yesterday urged Dominicans who plan to vote for the PRD to arrive at the polls early and in large numbers, armed with sticks and stones to protect themselves.

4. Under the appropriate provision of the Dominican electoral law, Balaguer can withdraw at any time up to and including Election Day by notifying the Central Electoral Board formally of his intention to do so. Lacking such notice, votes cast for Balaguer will be counted. Balaguer's status has no effect on other Reformist Party candidates.

5. Rain has continued to fall throughout much of the Dominican Republic all day, and there is a possibility of heavy storms by nightfall. Roads are slick and in several places highways have been blocked by landslides or washouts.

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OCI No. 1299/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 3

(As of 10:00 PM EDT)

1. Garcia Godoy told women members of the Reformist Party today that the government has decided to meet several of Balaguer's demands for last-minute changes in the voting procedures. Late press reports indicate that Garcia Godoy has signed a decree outlining such changes.
2. According to press reports, the decree provides that (a) women of 25 and older will be permitted to vote without the cedula for civil registration cards; (b) that the cedula issuing period, scheduled to close tomorrow, will be extended for one day through Monday; (c) that increased police protection will be provided would-be voters waiting to cast ballots at the more than three-thousand polling places.
3. These concessions--presumably agreed to today by Balaguer at a meeting with Garcia Godoy-- should bring the Reformist Party presidential candidate back into the race.
4. Dominican Revolution Party leader Juan Bosch probably will protest the Provisional Government giving-in to Balaguer, but the consensus in Santo Domingo is that he will not pull out of the race in retaliation. Bosch may well sense that his chances of victory have been enhanced by Balaguer's tactics and by the prospect that torrential rain will cut down on the Reformist vote outside the city.
5. Less than two days of campaigning remain. The Provisional Government has ruled that radio stations cannot carry campaign speeches or spot announcements after Monday night.

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OCI No. 1300/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
29 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 4
(As of 8:00 AM EDT)

1. Major concessions to Balaguer have been announced by the provisional government. Late last night the government radio station broadcast decrees that extended the deadline for cedula issuance until midnight 30 May and the elimination of the cedula requirement for women 25 years of age and over.

2. Although Balaguer's Reformist Party (PR) has not officially reacted to these measures, both Balaguer and his running mate [redacted] expressed their satisfaction with the decrees.

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3. Bosch has indicated his displeasure with the decrees, but said he does not intend to take an intransigent position on them. In a speech yesterday, Bosch parried charges by the PR of fraud by seemingly well documented cases of illegal maneuvering by his opponents and advised Balaguer to accept defeat gracefully.

4. Much has been made of Bosch's 27 May speech in which he warned his followers to go to the polls armed with sticks and stones. Both Santo Domingo dailies have deplored the statement and Balaguer forces have made extensive use of it. In defense, Bosch charged yesterday that his statements had been maliciously distorted.

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OCI No. 1305/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
29 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 5
(As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

1. Balaguer's re-entry into the political campaign today following the acquiescence of the provisional government to his demands apparently completes an audacious political maneuver which afforded him both the public spotlight and the enlargement of a potential voting bloc (women) generally considered largely in his camp.

2. Balaguer's dramatic announcement on 28 May that his Reformist Party was withdrawing from the 1 June elections was made against the counsel of some of his top advisors and appears to have surprised and confused many of his followers. Had authorities not ruled in his favor, Balaguer's position would have been badly weakened and permanent retirement from the race the only likely alternative.

3. It is unlikely that Bosch will let the remaining days of the campaign slip by without himself going after the center ring.

4. Third-ranking presidential candidate Rafael Bonnelly has not only lost the support of the small Liberal Evolutionalist Party but also his running mate on the National Integration Movement ticket who resigned late Friday night. In the face of dwindling strength, Bonnelly's [] withdrawal from the elections may still occur.

5. The US Weather Bureau advised that as of 2:00 P.M. EDT weather conditions in the Dominican Republic were light scattered clouds and no precipitation. Tonight's forecast calls for possible light showers.

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OCI No. 1535/66

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 June 1966**

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 6
(As of 8:45 A.M. EDT)

1. At 7:00 A.M. EDT the Dominicans began to cast their ballots for president, vice president, 27 senators, 74 deputies, 77 mayors, and 417 municipal councilmen. The polls will remain open until 7:00 P.M. EDT tonight.

2. In a last minute effort to reduce the chances of repetitive voting, the provisional government announced last night that male voters will have their upper wrists shaved. This safeguard has been employed in the past, but its use in this election represents another concession to Balaguer, who had demanded its employment.

3. Bosch's confident demeanor and surprisingly low-keyed campaign windup has given [redacted] the impression that Bosch knows something they do not.

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4. The latest weather report for today predicts fair weather this morning and possible showers this afternoon.



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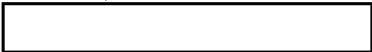
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OCI No. 1536/66

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 June 1966**

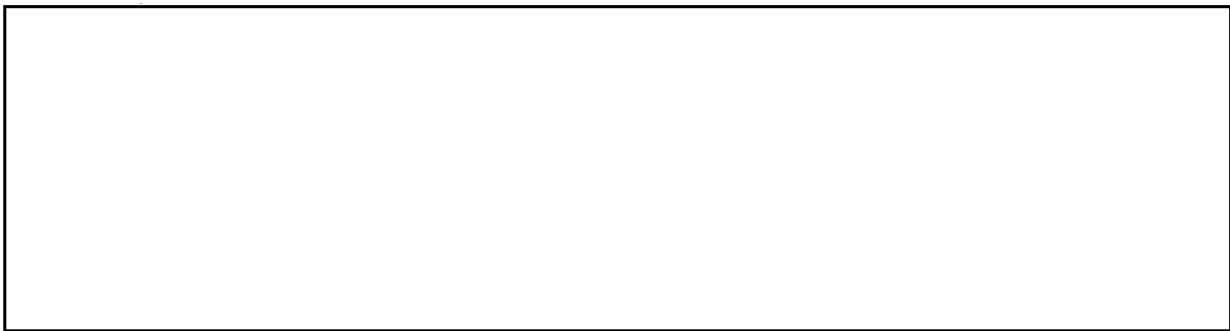
INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 7
(As of 11:30 A.M. EDT)

1. No incidents have been reported during the course of the morning. The weather is clear and the turnout is described as good--in Santo Domingo and in the provinces, as well.

2. Radio Santo Domingo, the only station on the air, is urging all eligible voters to cast ballots and has begun to deny rumors and misinformation calculated to discourage a heavy turnout. About an hour ago it described as false rumors that women would not be allowed to vote before afternoon.

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4. No returns have been reported as of this hour.



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OCI No. 1537/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 8

(As of 1:30 P.M. EDT)

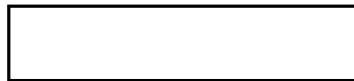
1. The Weather Bureau advises that as of 11:00 A.M. EDT clouds were building up into possible local showers this afternoon. The overall weather picture is fair, but somewhat unstable. No fronts or major weather trends are likely during the next twelve hours.

2. Voter turnout is moderate to heavy, according to press [redacted] US officials on the scene surmise that a good many of the voters who lined up early this morning to cast their ballots in the more prosperous districts of the capital were Balagueristas.

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3. No incidents have been reported.

4. Late yesterday Reformist Party officials charged that the number of PR ballots delivered to at least five polling places in Peravia Province was less than the number of Dominican Revolutionary Party ballots delivered. In one polling place, according to a PR statement, 725 PRD but only 426 PR ballots were delivered. PR poll watchers had been instructed to ensure that an equal number of PR and PRD ballots are on hand before the voting starts.



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OCI No. 1538/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 9

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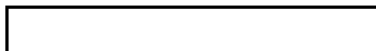
(As of 3:45 P.M. EDT)



2. There are continuing reports of heavy voter turnout outside the capital. A check of voting places outside Santiago in mid-morning indicated a good turnout with a large number of women waiting to cast ballots. In two nearby towns, poll watchers from Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party were much in evidence and PRD activists with badges and bandannas were patrolling the streets; no PR observers were seen.

3. Radio Santo Domingo continues to broadcast spot announcements denying prevalent rumors about disturbances or limitations on the hours women will be permitted to vote.

4. Defense Minister Perez y Perez denied a rumor that a large quantity of "munitions" was shipped hurriedly to the Forteleza Ozama in downtown Santo Domingo. Perez y Perez claims that the packages carried into the fort contained dry rations for troops assigned to guard the polling places.



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OCI No. 0833/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 10
(As of 6:30 P.M. EDT)

1. Police and military elements are reportedly doing an excellent job with order being maintained throughout the country.
2. Estimates of heavy voter turnout continue. Local electoral boards appear to be reacting quickly to resolve small technical problems.
3. Balaguer supporters in Santiago, the country's second largest city, are radiating great confidence based on the discarded ballots at the polls. In suburban areas where Bosch was thought strong, they believe Bosch will win by only a small margin.
4. Following a tour of some voting stations in the capital, Ambassador Bunker is quoted in a press report as saying "Things are going as well as we expected."
5. The latest weather reports indicate that the possibility of showers in the late afternoon is now slight.
6. Polls close at 7:00 P.M. EDT and even partial preliminary returns probably will not be coming for at least a couple of hours.



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OCI No. 1308/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 11
(As of 2:45 AM EDT)

1. On the basis of votes reported by Radio Santo Domingo, Reformist Party presidential candidate Joaquin Balaguer is leading with 28,117 votes to Dominican Revolutionary Party candidate Juan Bosch's 25,056. These returns are fragmentary and reflect chiefly those ballots tabulated in the National District--which includes Santo Domingo--and the city of Santiago. As expected, Bosch is leading in Santo Domingo, where he has 18,229 votes to Balaguer's 10,297; but Balaguer seems to be polling approximately 52 percent of the national vote.

2. Approximately 1.2 million Dominicans, or 65 to 70 percent of the eligible voters, cast ballots today.

3. No major incidents have been reported.

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OCI No. 1309/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 12

(As of 5:45 AM EDT)

1. Radio Santo Domingo's tabulation of the vote count has fallen considerably behind tallies reported by the press services. At 0230 local time, Reuters credited Balaguer with 154,110 to 133,498 for Bosch in the total national vote.

2. Radio Santo Domingo's tabulation, which provides a breakdown by polling place, shows Bosch carrying the National District by 57.5 percent--a drop of 20 percentage points below his 1962 margin. Bosch's share of the National District vote has declined slowly but steadily during the night.

3. Scattered returns from outside the capital indicate that Balaguer is doing extremely well; even in areas where Bosch is leading, the PRD candidate's total is down markedly from four years ago.

4. According to the press, an unidentified high official of Bosch's party has said that if the PRD wins, it will do so by a narrow margin.

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OCI No. 0833/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 June 1966

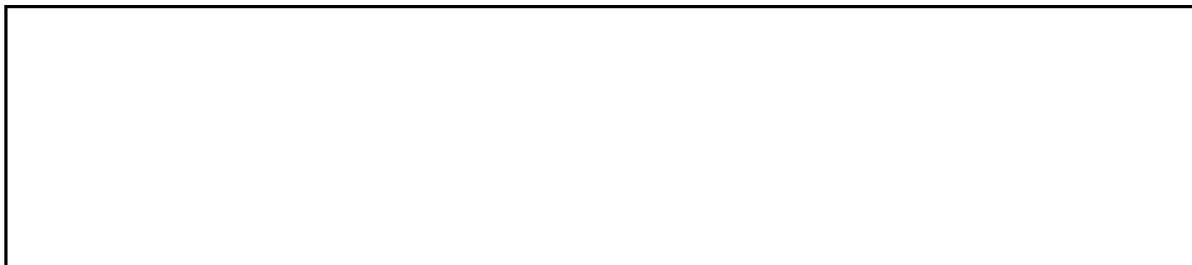
INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 13

(As of 5:30 P.M. EDT)

1. Balaguer is in command of a strong lead with almost half of the estimated vote counted.

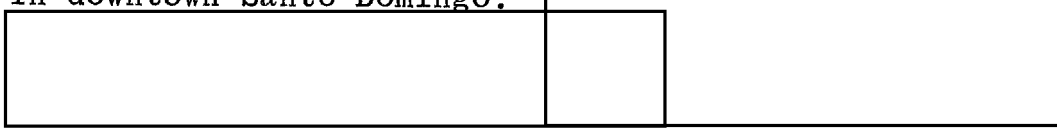
2. Balaguer has already issued a victory statement in which he said that he intends to push for the withdrawal of the 8003-man Inter-American Peace Force.



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4. Violence may erupt in Santo Domingo when a Balaguer victory becomes officially announced. During the campaign extreme leftist elements supporting Bosch said that he could only be defeated by fraud, which they would not accept peacefully. The National Police are investigating a report that youths are gathering in downtown Santo Domingo.

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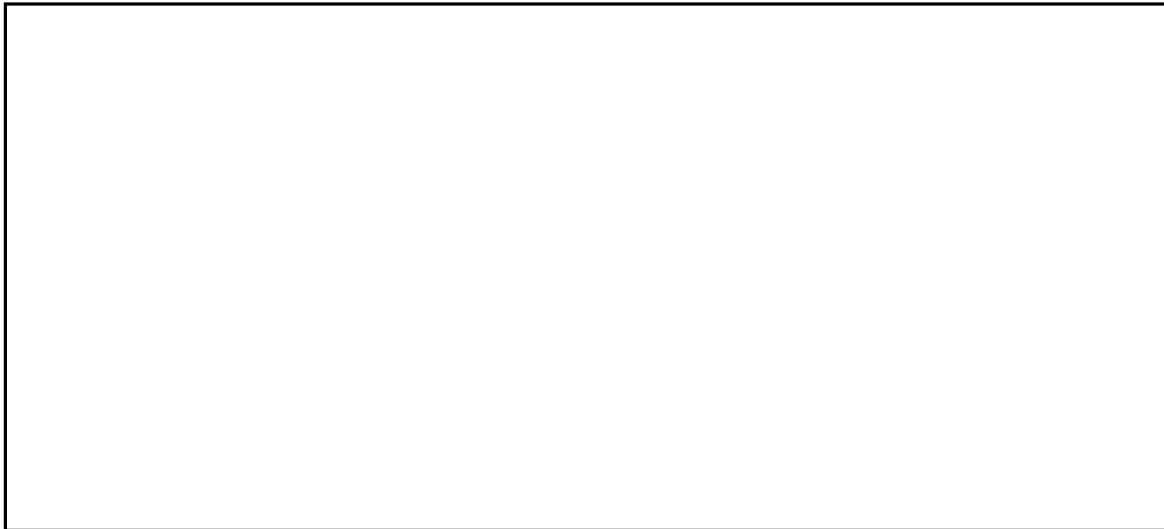
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Dominican Election Situation Report No. 14
(As of 8:15 A.M. EDT)

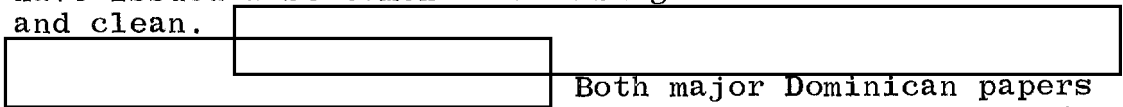
1. Balaguer is maintaining an overwhelming lead. Based on about 90% of the total vote, the Central Electoral Board count as of 9:30 P.M. EDT last night was:

Balaguer:	645,375	(58.4%)
Bosch :	422,576	(38.2%)
Bonnelly:	37,629	(3.4%)



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3. Bosch will get little comfort from the reports of election observers. A majority of the OAS observers have issued a statement describing the elections as free and clean.



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Both major Dominican papers yesterday gave extensive coverage to the orderliness of the voting and lack of incidents.



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