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**Roosevelt DOUGLAS**

**DOMINICA**

**Prime Minister; Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Labor, of Immigration, and of National Security (since February 2000)**

Addressed as: Mr. Prime Minister (b)(3)



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Self-styled revolutionary Roosevelt "Rosie" Douglas won a surprise victory over former Prime Minister Edison James in the January 2000 election after convincing voters that he would weed out corruption and improve Dominica's international image. (b)(3)

Douglas and his Dominica Labor Party (DLP) garnered 10 of 21 parliamentary seats and—despite his Marxist leanings—managed to form his country's first coalition government with the conservative Dominica Freedom Party. On taking office, Douglas told (b)(3) that he wants to strengthen ties to the United States and seek development aid from Canada and the EU. Over the years (b)(3) have described the new Prime Min(b)(3); dynamic, charismatic, and wily. (b)(3)

**A Changed Man? (b)(3)**

In recent years, Douglas has moderated his rhetoric and polished his image as a radical allied to Libya and various Marxist groups (b)(3). His party has attracted unemployed and disaffected young Dominicans, as well as a loyal cadre of other supporters, many of whom have benefited from scholarships he solicited from Cuba and Libya. An untested leader, Douglas has traveled extensively and most likely will seek support from a network of international contacts to help assist his financially (b)(1) strapped country (b)(3).

The Prime Minister claims that his party is committed to a path of private-sector-led development. He has said that he intends to reform the regulation of offshore banking and the country's economic citizenship program, whereby

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Dominican passports were sold to anyone who can afford them—factors that have made (b)(1) Dominica a haven for organized crime (b)(3)

**A Radical Past (b)(3)**

Douglas became involved in student politics while studying in Canada. He was arrested in 1969 for leading a violent demonstration of black militants at Sir George Williams University, which caused at least \$2 million in damages to the school's computer center and cafeteria. He served several months in prison and subsequently deported in 1976 as a security risk; at the same time, he was also denied travel to the United States. On his return to Dominica, Douglas established ties to Cuba and started the Popular Independence Committee to fight for independence from Britain. He was briefly appointed senator but was later fired after inviting Cuban troops to help hurricane-devastated (b)(3) Dominica in 1979. (b)(3)

Douglas taught political science at the University of the West Indies' Extra Mural Department in Dominica. He won a parliamentary seat in 1985 while running on the United Labor Party ticket. Douglas became an official member of the DLP in 1986, assuming the position of DLP secretary of international relations; during that time, (b)(1)

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Douglas lost his seat in parliament in 1990 largely because he neglected his domestic constituency in favor of international leftist political activity. In 1992 he became leader of the DLP following the death of his brother. (b)(3)

**Personal Data** (b)(3)

Douglas was born on 15 October 1941 into one of the wealthiest families in Dominica. In 1961 he moved to Canada where he received degrees in agriculture and political science from Guelph University in Ontario and Sir George Williams University in Montreal. From there he went to McGill University in Montreal to participate in a master's/doctoral program. Douglas has worked as a political and economic consultant with a number of African countries and organizations, including the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organization. He has also lectured at various universities. Douglas is unmarried and has three children. (b)(3)