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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, HABANA

1156

January 16, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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REF :

SUBJECT: National Assembly of the Liberal Party Elects Its Executive Committee and Proclaims Candidacy of Suárez Rivas for Vice President

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The National Assembly of the Partido Liberal (PL) meeting on January 13, elected Dr. Eduardo SUAREZ Rivas as President of its Executive Board for the third consecutive time. It also passed a resolution calling for the fulfillment of the Liberal pact with the PRC(A). In this latter connection the Assembly expressed the opinion that this included the nomination on the Government coalition ticket of a PL member for the vice presidency. Suárez Rivas was named as the party's candidate for this position.

In the principal speech of the Assembly Dr. Suárez Rivas praised the pact which the PL had entered into with the Government and called for a round of applause for President PRLO. Suárez Rivas referred to the attacks of the Government opposition and the "attempts of our enemies to cause the disappearance of the Liberal party". He said, however, that instead of disappearing the party now has more than 200,000 affiliates throughout the Republic.

There is attached a list of the new Executive Board of the Liberal Party.

Comment

The Liberals are basing their demand for the vice presidency on their pact with the Government. They undoubtedly feel that the 208,000 affiliates which they obtained in the recent registration period now give them a chance to press their point. Nevertheless the Demócrata party with a larger affiliation 1/ is also claiming the right to the vice presidential nomination for Minister of Health ANDREU. The probable entrance of CASTELLANOS' PNC into the Government coalition may further complicate the problem. ALONSO Pujol of the PNC and Ramón ZAYDIN of the PL have been making attacks against each

1/ 215,000 against the PL's 208,000

HAHoyt:WJN

REPORTER(S)

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other's party publicly in recent days, making it appear likely that the PNC would object strongly to the candidacy of Suárez Rivas. Also, many PNC(A) leaders think that an Auténtico like CASERO or LANCIS should be the vice presidential candidate. (The choice of an Auténtico might well be a solution to avoid favoring any one of the other coalition parties.) In any event, in view of the number of aspirants for the position it is far too early to predict who will be the final choice as HEVIA's running mate. The fact that the nomination is now suddenly sought after is an indication of the greatly improved status of the government coalition relative to the June elections.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Henry A. Hoyt

Henry A. Hoyt
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

List of Executive Board of the PL

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EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

President: Dr. Eduardo SUAREZ Rivas

Vice Presidents: Dr. Rafael INCLAN
Dr. Juan A. VINENT Griñán
Dr. Ramón ZAYDIN y Márquez Sterling
Ricardo CAMPANERIA Valdés
Jorge ALONSO Patiño
Dr. Jose SUAREZ Rivas

Recording Secretary: Dr. César E. CAMACHO Covani
Assistant Recording Secretary: Angel AGUIAR Robaina

Correspondence Secretary: Alfredo IZAGUIRRE Hornedo
Assistant Correspondence Secretary: Alfredo VALDES López

Treasurer: Ernesto PEREZ Carrillo
Assistant Treasurer: Dr. Salvador GARCIA Ramos

Members of the Board:

Israel PEREZ Rodríguez
Manuel E. ZAYAS Bazán
Isidoro SANCHEZ Perales
Arturo INFANTE Maldonado
Marcelino MARTINEZ Tapia
Severino LOPEZ Llorens
Lucilo DIAZ Fernández
Enrique MARTELL Aldama
Alberto E. GONZALEZ Parra
René Gregorio AYALA
Gregorio GUAS Inclán
Alfonso MARQUET Domínguez

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