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3 1948		AN		AN 0911 4 MAR 1948	
PANAMA COSTA RICA					
Registry Number AN 911/441/32. TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Coulter, No. San Jose 10. Dated 2 Mar. Received in Registry 13		<u>Costa Rican Elections</u> Presidential elections were declared null & void by Congress resolution of 12th Mar. Opposition started offensive against Govt. but State & companies escaped to house & are now surrounded by Govt troops.			
Last Paper. AN 600 ✓		(Minutes.) See minutes on AN 939.			
References.		Jackson 9/3. 18. 5/3.			
(Print.)		See within A). Manchester Guardian Extract of 25/3			
(How disposed of.)		18 3/4.			
(Action completed.) 11.	(Index.) 1919				
Next Paper. AN 922 ✓		25986 F.O.P.			

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AN 0911

Code R

4 MAR 1948

DIPLOMATIC

FROM SAN JOSE TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Coultas
No.10

D.6.30 p.m. 2nd March, 1948.

2nd March, 1948.

R.1. 5 a.m. 3rd March, 1948.

Repeated to Washington

Mexico
Guatemala
Tegucigalpa
Salvador
Managua
Panama

Saving

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.10 of
of March 2nd, repeated to Washington and Saving
Mexico, Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Salvador, Managua,
Panama.

Please refer to ^{despatch para.} paragraph 7 of my ^{despatch} telegram No.9 [sic]
which has now been copied to posts named above.

2. Electoral tribunal on February 28th gave
provisional decision in favour of Ulate but denied that
they were empowered to take cognisance of Calderons
accusations of fraud. In consequence Government parties
refused to acknowledge the validity of the pact signed
last August and Congress passed a resolution on the night
of March 1st declaring the Presidential elections to be
null and void.

3. The intention of the opposition parties to declare
a general strike and [omission] violence if necessary
should elections be annulled, was an open secret and when
fiscal police requested permission to search for arms in
house used by U. as headquarters this was refused, and attempt
to search was met by rifle fire resulting in the deaths of
two fiscal guards, and casualties during ensuing struggle
amongst persons assembled in the house, which included
U. and his principal lieutenants in the capital who were
awaiting the expected annulment of election to start
their offensive against the Government. Seen after
fighting started U. and his principal companions escaped
to a [grp omitted] house where they are now surrounded
by Government troops pending the result of negotiations
being carried out for U.'s transfer to asylum of one of
the Latin American Missions here.

B B B



INDEXED

Minutes.

INDEXED

AN911 1441 32.

A)
P W pp
Costa
Rica
District

PP with AS dep.

5 MAR 1948

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.

25 MAR 1948

Cutting dated

194

Costa Rica

When a Presidential election goes "wrong" in Latin America a solution is commonly sought in civil war. This seems to be the trouble at present in Costa Rica, though the issues are in danger of involving some of the other Republics. Under President Picado, the Costa Rican Government was liberal enough to appear to form a dangerous gap in the circle of neighbouring dictatorships. The gap seemed likely to be closed when Dr. Ulate Blanco defeated the Government party's candidate, Señor Calderon Guardia, in the election for President last month. The Government party quickly found that the election was a fraud: certain important documents relating to it had been burnt. The staff of Dr. Ulate's newspaper were arrested, and on March 1 the Congress annulled the election result, which the Electoral Tribunal had just upheld. General Picado, the former President's brother, refused to hand over the Army to Dr. Ulate whose followers threatened to stage a general strike. The President-elect himself is variously reported to have been arrested, to have surrendered, to have gone into hiding, and to have been "released and taken home by the United States Ambassador." His cause has been taken up by General Figueres, whose supporters, according to one report, are hard pressing the Government troops. Those who favour Dr. Ulate—most of the neighbouring States, that is—say the Costa Rican Government has the support of the Communists and clamour for sanctions against what a Colombian paper calls the "Picado dictatorship." Indeed, a Peruvian spokesman is quoted as saying that Costa Rica has become "the Czechoslovakia of the Western Hemisphere." Democracy is clearly at stake, and the dictators of Central and South America are in full voice defending it.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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