

AN

AN 0600

14 FEB 1948

PANAMA, COSTA RICA

Registry Number AN600/441/32

TELEGRAM FROM H. Coultas.

No. San José 7.

Dated 12 Feb.

Received in Registry 14

Costa Rican Elections.

Ref San José despatch 53 (AN2890/38/32)
Reports election for President/Republic on bit 7b, which to place in almost perfect order of freedom. Situation is very delicate. I may give place to civil strife.

Last Paper 441. ✓
AN 465

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The Opposition have stuck very cunningly; having been out-maneuvred as regards the registration of electors (in An. 3653) they have gone to the root of the trouble and falsified indeed the responsible department to falsify the registers.

Calderon Guardia, who helped to put Des. Picado, the outgoing President, into power, was regarded as a near certainty in these elections.

It remains to be seen how this situation develops - there has been nothing further from San José yet.

J. Jackson 16/2.

S.A. Dept. 19/2
L.A. 19/2

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

19/2

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AN 911

Mr Coultas has all along been prophesying

26513 F.O.P.

1 that

that there would be
 trouble over these
 elections. He recently
 urged that the
 situation was so un-
 certain that it would
 justify the repetition of
 staff which was to be
 cut under the recent
 economy measures.
 I am afraid his plea
 was not accepted.
 The conditions he now
 describes seem to be
 the normal accompaniment
 of such elections in C.A.

P
 16/2

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DIPLOMATIC.

FROM SAN JOSE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Coultas. D. 7.10 p.m. 12th February, 1948.
No. 7.
12th February, 1948. R. 10.20 p.m. 12th February, 1948.

My despatch 53 and my despatch 65.

Election for President of the Republic took place on February 8th in almost perfect order and freedom throughout Republic though in circumstances of unprecedented political tension. A preliminary count gives the Opposition leader Ulate a lead of about 10,000 votes. The Government party candidate Calderon has, however, challenged the legality of the election on the ground that some 25,000 of his supporters were prevented from voting by fraudulent preference given to the Opposition by the department entrusted under the supervision of electoral tribunal with preparation and distribution of voters' lists and identity cards.

2. The situation is very delicate and may at any moment give rise to civil strife unless all parties exercise the greatest restraint while the matter is thrashed out between [?gp. cmtd.] and the tribunal. There was firing and stone throwing by the contending parties last night and Calderon's followers are staging mass demonstrations daily.

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