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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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PTQ6646

PAGE 01 SANTO 10331 161345Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-01	E-00	FBIE-00	FRB-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/024W	

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P 161347Z DEC 94
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2218

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 010331

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, PINR, DR
SUBJECT: BALAGUER NAMES NEW CUSTOMS AND POLICE CHIEFS

1. (C) SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BALAGUER NAMED TEOFILLO J. "QUICO" TABAR TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, AND GENERAL LUIS ANTONIO NUNEZ PAULINO TO BE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE ON DECEMBER 4. TABAR IS A RETREAD, HE WAS REPLACED AS CUSTOMS DIRECTOR IN MAY 1994 AND NOW RETURNS TO THE POSITION HE HELD FOR EIGHT YEARS. ALTHOUGH DURING HIS PREVIOUS TENURE TABAR DID LITTLE TO ATTACK THE INSTITUTIONALIZED CORRUPTION FOR WHICH THE DOMINICAN CUSTOMS SERVICE IS NOTORIOUS, MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT HE IS "RELATIVELY" CLEAN HIMSELF. NUNEZ WAS PREVIOUSLY POLICE COMMANDER FOR THE SOUTHERN

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANTO 10331 161345Z

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 15 DEC 2019
DATE/CASE ID: 23 DEC 2011 201005498

UNCLASSIFIED

REGION, AND REPLACES OUTGOING POLICE CHIEF GUERRERO AMID CONCERN OVER RIOTS IN LA VICTORIA PRISON. END SUMMARY.

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TEOFILO JOSE "QUICO" TABAR

2. (U) TABAR WAS BORN APRIL 11, 1945 IN SALCEDO, DR. HIS PARENTS WERE PART OF THE WEALTHY LEBANESE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN THE DR. HE STUDIED ECONOMICS AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD), BUT NEVER GRADUATED. HIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS LANDED HIM A JOB WITH THE NATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL AS DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES AT THE AGE OF 17. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY FROM ABOUT THAT SAME TIME, AND LATER BECAME A PAID ACTIVIST. TABAR JOINED THE RULING PRSC WHEN THE CHRISTIAN SOCIALISTS MERGED WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S REFORMIST PARTY IN THE EARLY 70S. TABAR WAS APPOINTED CUSTOMS DIRECTOR IN 1986, AND HELD THE POSITION UNTIL MAY 1994, WHEN HE WAS REPLACED BY ANISIA RISI DE MERCEDES, WHOM HE NOW REPLACES. TABAR IS MARRIED, WITH CHILDREN.

3. (C) EMBASSY OFFICIALS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS HAVE FOUND TABAR TO BE VERY INTELLIGENT AND HARD-WORKING. HE RAN THE CUSTOMS OFFICE WITH A VERY PERSONAL TOUCH DURING HIS TENURE, MAKING ALL KEY AND MANY ROUTINE DECISIONS HIMSELF. TECHNICALLY, HE IS SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO THE FINANCE MINISTER, BUT IN PRACTICE THE CUSTOMS DIRECTOR REPORTS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SANTO 10331 161345Z
BALAGUER, WHO TAKES A KEEN INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT REVENUES. THE GODR IS DEPENDENT ON CUSTOMS REVENUES FOR INCOME. UNDER RISI REVENUES HAD REPORTEDLY DECLINED BY SEVEN PERCENT AND WERE CONTINUING TO DECLINE. TABAR IS VERY LOYAL TO THE PARTY AND TO BALAGUER PERSONALLY.

[REDACTED] HAVE ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PERSONALLY CORRUPT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME DIFFERING OPINIONS. WITHOUT DOUBT, THE ORGANIZATION OVER WHICH HE PRESIDES IS AMONGST THE MOST

B1

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CORRUPT IN A GOVERNMENT NOT KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS. DURING HIS PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS AS CUSTOMS DIRECTOR, TABAR APPARENTLY MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO COMBAT THIS CORRUPTION.

 GENERAL LUIS ANTONIO NUNEZ PAULINO

4. (U) NUNEZ WAS BORN IN 1940 IN TAMBORIL, DR, AND ENTERED THE NATIONAL POLICE IN 1961 AS A CORPORAL, TRANSFERRING FROM THE ARMY. HE WORKED HIS WAY UP TO HIS CURRENT RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL. HE HAS AMPLE COMMAND EXPERIENCE AS POLICE COMMANDER OF VARIOUS REGIONS, AND AS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. MOST RECENTLY HE HAS SERVED AS COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. HE IS MARRIED TO VIOLETA GARCIA DE NUNEZ, AND HAS TWO DAUGHTERS, VIOLETA AND JOSELIN MILAGROS.

5. (C) MEDIA SPECULATION INDICATES THAT NUNEZ IS REPLACING RAFAEL GUERRERO PERALTA BECAUSE OF
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANTO 10331 161345Z
 EMBARRASSING PUBLICITY STEMMING FROM A RECENT RIOT AT LA VICTORIA PRISON. PRISONERS BEING HELD THERE DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF JUDICIAL ORDERS FOR THEIR RELEASE RIOTED AND BURNED MATTRESSES AND OTHER POSSESSIONS TO PROTEST THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION LAST WEEK. IN RESPONSE, NATIONAL DISTRICT CHIEF PROSECUTOR ALEXIS JOAQUIN CASTILLO, WHO IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE AN ILLEGITIMATE SON OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER, HAS HEAVILY CRITICIZED THE NATIONAL POLICE.

6. (C) NUNEZ

B1

[REDACTED] IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS OCCURRING IN THE COUNTRY, SUCH AS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ. SOURCES IN THE GODR SPECULATE THAT NUNEZ'S APPOINTMENT

WILL BE SHORT-LIVED,

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