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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	EB-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09
	G-00	/031W					

-----FF4112 131626Z /38

R 131550Z NOV 95
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 007660

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/13/2005
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KJUS, ELAB, DR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CALLS ON NEWLY-APPOINTED POLICE
CHIEF

1. CLASSIFIED BY CRISTOBAL R. OROZCO, DCM.
REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION: 1.5(D)

2. (C) SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM AND
RSO, CALLED ON NEWLY-APPOINTED CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE
MAJ. GEN. ANTONIO IMBERT TESSON ON NOV 2. IMBERT
PROVIDED AMBASSADOR WITH A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIS PLANS TO
A) MODERNIZE THE POLICE, B) MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH
THE EMBASSY AND C) REESTABLISH LINKS WITH U.S. LAW
ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO

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DOMINICAN POLICE IN THE PAST. IMBERT ALSO ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT THE CASE OF MISSING PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ IS STILL OPEN. HE AVOIDED ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RECENT POLICE ACTION AGAINST STRIKERS IN THE BONA0 FREE TRADE ZONE. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) DURING A NOON MEETING ON NOV 2 WITH MAJ. GEN. ANTONIO IMBERT TESSON, WHO WAS APPOINTED ON OCT 18 AS CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE, HE PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF HIS PLANS TO MODERNIZE THE DOMINICAN NATIONAL POLICE FORCE. HE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS, SUCH AS ICITAP ASSISTANCE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE TO U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. HE RECALLED HIS OWN TRAINING AT THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN PANAMA IN THE MID-60S, AS WELL AS FOLLOW-ON DETAILS TO THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY. HE MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO IMPROVING THE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY CAPABILITIES, AN AREA IN WHICH THE PRESENT ICITAP PROGRAM IS ACTIVE.

4. (C) IMBERT EXPRESSED HIS INTENT TO CONTINUE THE POLICIES OF HIS PREDECESSOR REGARDING PROTECTION OF AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS U.S. CITIZENS RESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT TOURISTS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY ARE VIRTUALLY WITHOUT POLICE PROTECTION. FORTUNATELY, MOST HOTEL AND RESORT OPERATORS PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES THROUGH PRIVATE FIRMS. HE IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO ALLOCATE POLICE RESOURCES TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM DURING HIS TENURE.

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5. (C) AMBASSADOR RAISED THE CASE OF MISSING AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ, WHO DISAPPEARED IN MAY 1994 AFTER PUBLICLY CRITICIZING PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND HIS GOVERNMENT. IMBERT WAS EVASIVE AND LIMITED HIS COMMENTS TO ASSURANCES THAT THE CASE REMAINED OPEN AND UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION. AMBASSADOR ASKED SEVERAL RELATED QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS CASE, BUT IMBERT DEMURRED.

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6. (C) REFERRING TO A RECENT INCIDENT IN THE BONA0 FREE TRADE ZONE, AMBASSADOR ASKED IMBERT HOW IT HAPPENED THAT THE POLICE HAD TO USE TEAR GAS AGAINST WORKERS WHO WERE CONDUCTING A LEGAL STRIKE (SEE SANTO DOMINGO 7450). THE GENERAL DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION, BUT AGAIN GAVE AN EVASIVE RESPONSE, CLAIMING THAT THE KOREAN FACTORY OWNERS WERE TO BLAME FOR THE INCIDENT.

7. (C) THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MAJ. GEN. IMBERT WAS USEFUL AND CORDIAL. IT WAS TERMINATED ABRUPTLY WHEN THE GENERAL WAS CALLED TO A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER. HRINAK

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