

PTQ3376

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CONFIDENTIAL PTQ3376

PAGE 01 SANTO 03463 01 OF 03 202050Z
 ACTION FAAE-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	ARA-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	CIP-00
	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FCC-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00
	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/025W			

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R 202038Z JUN 97
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
 TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 NAVWARCOL NEWPORT RI
 AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
 CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA//JJJ//
 FAA MIAMI FL
 SECSTATE WASHDC 5888
 USDOT WASHDC
 USDOC WASHDC 0240
 USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTO DOMINGO 003463

LA PAZ PASS TO LARSON
 WAR COLLEGE FOR KEVIN O'REILLY CNCS 06/97
 FAA MIAMI PASS TO CASLO AND JOAQUIN ARCHILLA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/19/2002

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03463 01 OF 03 202050Z

TAGS: PGOV, ECPS, PREL, DR

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SUBJECT: DOMINICAN HIGHLIGHTS -- JUNE 14-JUNE 20

CLASSIFIED BY DONNA J. HRINAK, AMBASSADOR, REASON: 1.5(D)

FOR LAND'S SAKES

1. (C) FOR MONTHS, THE FERNANDEZ ADMINISTRATION APPOINTEE AT THE GODR LAND REFORM AGENCY (IAD) SENT DATA ABOUT THE MISSPENT TERM OF HIS PREDECESSOR, JAIME RODRIGUEZ GUZMAN, TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ DEL ORBE. THIS WEEK THE A/G FORMALLY CHARGED GUZMAN, WHO WAS CUFFED (WITH TELEVISION CAMERAS ROLLING) AND JAILED. AT LEAST SOME OF GUZMAN'S ASSETS HAVE BEEN SEIZED. THE CASE BEARS DIRECTLY ON U.S. INTERESTS SINCE SEVERAL AMCITS HAVE OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AGAINST IAD. MORE BROADLY, MUCH OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT AND TO THE CAUSE OF LEGITIMATE LAND REFORM WAS DONE BY RODRIGUEZ GUZMAN BY FAVORING HIMSELF AND OTHER BALAGUERISTAS WITH GODR-OWNED LAND. THE BENEFICIARIES OF RODRIGUEZ GUZMAN'S RAPACIOUS GENEROSITY ARE IN SEVERAL INSTANCES IMPORTANT POLITICIANS WHO ARE REACTING STRENUOUSLY TO THE IDEA THAT THEIR LAND OR LAND THEY MAY HAVE PROVIDED TO RELATIVES MAY, IN FACT, BELONG TO THE GODR. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE HARD TO IMAGINE ELECTORAL COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN THE PRSC AND THE PLD SUCH AS THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES DURING THE LAST ELECTION IF THE PLD GOVERNMENT PURSUES THIS CASE. WE MAY ALSO BEGIN SEEING POLITICIANS BEGIN A CASCADE OF ACCUSATIONS AS THEY CAST
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PAGE 03 SANTO 03463 01 OF 03 202050Z
ASPERSIONS ON THEIR ERSTWHILE COLLEAGUES TO DIVERT
ATTENTION FROM THEMSELVES. THE HIGH PUBLICITY GIVEN THIS
CASE WILL MAKE IT A TEST FOR THE FERNANDEZ
ADMINISTRATION. END COMMENT

FERNANDEZ DENIES CODETEL RATE INCREASE

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2. (C) AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH CODETEL (A GTE SUBSIDIARY) OFFICIALS PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ'S REJECTION ON JUNE 17 OF CODETEL'S PROPOSED RATE PACKAGE FOR LOCAL SERVICE. ACCORDING TO CODETEL, THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED A RATE INCREASE WAS NECESSARY BUT SAID NOW WAS NOT THE RIGHT TIME BECAUSE OF DISTURBANCES IN THE STREETS. HE TOLD THEM HE DID NOT WANT TO BE KNOWN AS "THE PRESIDENT OF KILLINGS" AND CLAIMED TWENTY PEOPLE WOULD DIE IN DISTURBANCES IF HE PERMITTED THE RATE INCREASES. FERNANDEZ REFUSED TO GIVE A DATE ON WHICH FUTURE RATE INCREASES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. THE DOMINICAN PRESS HAS CARRIED RUMORS THAT CODETEL WILL BEGIN REDUCING THE QUALITY OF ITS SERVICE AS A RESULT OF THE RATE HIKE REJECTION.

 PROTESTS AND POLITICS

3. (C) THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE JUNE 19 DENYING IT WAS BEHIND THE PROTESTS AND DISTURBANCES THAT HAVE ARISEN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
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PAGE 04 SANTO 03463 01 OF 03 202050Z
 COUNTRY OVER RECENT WEEKS. TO THE CONTRARY, THE PRD ASSERTED, CHARGES THAT THE EVENTS HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND HAVE LED TO "PERSECUTION" BY THE AUTHORITIES OF SOME PRD MEMBERS. THE PRD ATTRIBUTED THE PROTESTS TO POPULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO DELIVER IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES (WATER, ELECTRICTIY, STREET PAVING, ETC.). GIVEN THE YEARS OF NEGLECT AND THE NUMBER OF AREAS AFFLICTED, SIMILAR LOW INTENSITY DISTURBANCES ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

 FIRST CUT FOR NEW SUPREME COURT

4. (U) THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL (CNM) NARROWED TO 48 THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW DOMINICAN SUPREME COURT IN A MORE THAN THREE-HOUR SESSION JUNE 19. 15 OF

THE 48 ARE AMONG THOSE WHO RECEIVED MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS FROM POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, ACCORDING TO AN NGO FOCUSED ON JUDICIAL REFORM. TWO PRESENT SUPREME COURT MEMBERS AND AT LEAST NINE OTHER JUDGES FROM

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03463 02 OF 03 202050Z
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FAA MIAMI FL
SECSTATE WASHDC 5889

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USDOT WASHDC
USDOC WASHDC 0241
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 SANTO DOMINGO 003463

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CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03463 02 OF 03 202050Z
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AROUND THE COUNTRY MADE THE FIRST CUT. THE CNM IS
SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN JUNE 27 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF
THE CANDIDACY LIST.

MORE ELECTIVE OFFICES

5. (U) THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE DOMINICAN CHAMBER OF
DEPUTIES WILL INCREASE FROM 120 TO 147 WITH THE 1998
ELECTIONS. THE INCREASE REFLECTS THE GROWTH IN
POPULATION ENUMERATED BY THE JUST-RELEASED 1993 CENSUS.
14 OF THE NEW SEATS CORRESPOND TO THE NATIONAL DISTRICT
OF SANTO DOMINGO FROM WHICH 31 DEPUTIES WERE ELECTED IN
THE 1994 ELECTIONS. THE COUNTRY'S SECOND CITY, SANTIAGO,
WILL HAVE THREE NEW SLOTS TO ADD TO ITS CURRENT ELEVEN.
THE DOMINICAN CONSTITUTION PROVIDES EACH PROVINCE HAVE
ONE DEPUTY PER 50,000 INHABITANTS (WITH POPULATION
FIGURES ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST 50,000) AND THAT NO
PROVINCE HAVE LESS THAN TWO DEPUTIES REGARDLESS OF THE
POPULATION.

DOMINICAN SEX WORKERS IN EUROPE

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6. (U) AN ASSOCIATION OF DOMINICAN WOMEN IN BRUSSELS HAS ASKED THE GODR TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL SERVICES SECTION IN
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PAGE 03 SANTO 03463 02 OF 03 202050Z
THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY IN THE BELGIAN CAPITAL. THE LEADER OF THE ASSOCIATION TOLD HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN SANTO DOMINGO THAT MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND DOMINICAN WOMEN WORK IN BARS AND BROTHELS AND ON THE STREETS OF BELGIAN CITIES. THE WOMEN CANNOT BENEFIT FROM THE ASSISTANCE THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FOREIGNERS, THE ASSOCIATION'S LEADER TOLD REPORTERS, BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE ILLITERATE OR HAVE ONLY FIRST OR SECOND GRADE EDUCATION.

FORMER IMMIGRATION CHIEF DEFENDS HER RECORD

7. (C) FORMER IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR TAINA GAUTREAU DE WINDT HAS ASKED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS SHE MISHANDLED EIGHT MILLION PESOS DURING HER TENURE. THE MONEY WAS PAID TO THE IMMIGRATION AGENCY BY AIRLINES FOR OVERTIME WORK PERFORMED BY IMMIGRATION EMPLOYEES. APPARENTLY, THE ALLEGATION CAN BE TRACED TO A SINGLE NEWSPAPER REPORTER WHOSE BROTHER WAS REPORTEDLY DISMISSED BY GAUTREAU FOR CORRUPTION. GAUTREAU TURNED OVER COPIES OF ALL THE RECEIPTS TO THE NEWS MEDIA FOR THE PAYMENTS FROM AUGUST 22, 1996 TO MAY 26, 1997 (SHE ALSO VISITED THE AMBASSADOR WITH A TERRARIUM, SYMBOLIZING TRANSPARENCY, FULL OF DOCUMENTS).
ATTORNEY GENERAL
RODRIGUEZ DEL ORBE HAS NOT MADE A DECISION ABOUT AN INVESTIGATION AT THIS TIME.

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PAGE 04 SANTO 03463 02 OF 03 202050Z
THE CHANNEL WAR ENDS

8. (C) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE DIRECTOR OF TELECOM, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM TELEMICRO AND THE STATE TV COMPANY RTVD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT THIS WEEK ENDING THE CONFLICT OVER VHF CHANNEL 5. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, RTVD WILL UNIFY ITS TRANSMISSIONS ON VHF CHANNEL 4 AND UHF CHANNEL 17. RTVD HAD BEEN BROADCASTING ON CHANNELS 4 AND 5, INTERFERING WITH TELEMICRO'S USE OF CHANNEL 6. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, TELEMICRO DONATED USD6.2 MILLION OF EQUIPMENT TO RTVD SO THAT IT COULD BROADCAST ON CHANNEL 4. RTVD ALSO RECEIVED EQUIPMENT FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: THE ASSIGNMENT OF VHF FREQUENCIES HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL IN THE DR).

INTER AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT

9. (U) CLAUDIO GROSSMAN, LEADING AN INTER AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DELEGATION VISIT TO THE D.R.,

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UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03463 03 OF 03 202050Z
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TOLD REPORTERS JUNE 17 THAT THE COUNTRY "HAD TAKEN
IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS."
DURING ITS WEEK LONG STAY, THE COMMISSION MET WITH

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NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF GEN. JOSE SANZ JIMINIAN AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE REFORM FRANKLIN ALMEYDA. THE DELEGATION ALSO MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, VISITED THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PRISON, AND DISCUSSED THE CASE OF DIASAPPEARED SANTO DOMINGO AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ WITH HIS FAMILY AND MEMBERS OF THE "TRUTH COMMISSION" SET UP BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE.

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