

PTQ7133

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PTQ7133

PAGE 01 SANTO 06099 051637Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	H-01	IM-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	CIO-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-04	G-00	NFAT-00	SWCI-00

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R 051444Z NOV 97
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCCC//
SECSTATE WASHDC 7627

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 006099

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/04/07
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, KJUS, DR
SUBJECT: NARCISAZO CASE -- UPDATE

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1887

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

2. (C) IN RECENT, SEPARATE MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR
DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ, WITH NEW SANTO
DOMINGO DISTRICT ATTORNEY FRANCISCO DOMINGUEZ, AND WITH
DOMINICAN TRUTH COMMISSION MEMBER FR. ALBERT GARCIA THE
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PAGE 02 SANTO 06099 051637Z

STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1994 DISAPPEARANCE OF PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ (NARCISAZO). ALL CONVERSATIONS OCCURRED FOLLOWING THE EARLY OCTOBER HEARING OF THE CASE BY THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AT WHICH THE TRUTH COMMISSION ALLEGED THAT THE GODR'S INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE HAS BEEN INSUFFICIENT.

3. (C) FR. GARCIA REPORTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE IACHR HEARING, THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO NAME OFFICIALS TO WORK WITH THE TRUTH COMMISSION TO ADVANCE THE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO GARCIA, THE GODR HAS DESIGNATED THREE COMPETENT, WELL-INTENTIONED AND FAIR-MINDED OFFICIALS FOR THIS TASK. HOWEVER, ALL ARE CIVILIANS WHO GARCIA SAYS WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPEL THE NEEDED MILITARY COOPERATION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE NOMINATIONS AS A "GOODWILL GESTURE," NOTHING MORE, BUT ADDED THE TRUTH COMMISSION WILL TRY TO MAKE THESE OFFICIALS' PARTICIPATION MEANINGFUL.

4. (C) GARCIA ALSO DIVULGED THAT FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE ARMED FORCES ROJAS TABAR, WHO WAS AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AT THE TIME NARCISO DISAPPEARED, HAD OFFERED TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH THE TRUTH COMMISSION. (NOTE: THOSE FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION GENERALLY AGREE THAT AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE DISAPPEARANCE AND THAT ROJAS TABAR WAS, AT A MINIMUM, KNOWLEDGEABLE OF OTHERS' ACTIONS.) THE TRUTH COMMISSION WILL MEET W/ROJAS ON THREE CONDITIONS: 1) THAT THERE BE NO EFFORT TO HIDE THE FACT OF THE MEETING, 2) THAT THE MEETING BE VIDEO-TAPED AND 3) THAT

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PAGE 03 SANTO 06099 051637Z
ROJAS MAKE GOOD ON HIS EARLIER PUBLIC OFFER TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH. THE TRUTH COMMISSION AWAITS ROJAS' RESPONSE.

5. (C) AS FOR DOMINGUEZ, THE NEW DA HAS NOT TO DATE TAKEN ON THE ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS CASE PLAYED BY HIS PREDECESSOR, GUILLERMO MORENO. DOMINGUEZ TOOK NOTE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S INFORMATION THAT THE FBI HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INVESTIGATING

JUDGE, BUT WAS AWAITING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE SUPPORT. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE JUDGE REGARDING NEXT STEPS.

6. (C) IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ, AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO HER CONVERSATION WITH DOMINGUEZ, AS WELL AS TO HER PREVIOUS DISCUSSION OF THE NARCISAZO CASE WITH FERNANDEZ (REF). SHE REITERATED FBI WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE POLYGRAPH ASSISTANCE TO THE JUDGE IF AND WHEN THE REQUEST WAS FORMALIZED. IN CONTRAST TO THE EARLIER CONVERSATION, WHEN FERNANDEZ HAD EXPRESSED HIS FIRM COMMITMENT TO A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, HE THIS TIME MERELY ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS.

7. (C) COMMENT: FERNANDEZ IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN ENSURE THAT A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AND THAT THOSE CONDUCTING IT, PRINCIPALLY THE JUDGE, ARE PROTECTED. HOWEVER, HE IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO IN THE SHORT TERM. MOST PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED THE CASE AGREE THAT THE FINGER OF GUILT POINTS AT LEAST INDIRECTLY TO MEMBERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S
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PAGE 04 SANTO 06099 051637Z
INNER CIRCLE. SOME OF THAT SAME COTERIE ARE BEING LINKED TO OTHER SCANDALS, MOST NOTABLY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY FRAUD, AND SPECULATION IS STRONG THAT IN RETALIATION--AND TO SEND A MESSAGE OF THEIR CONTINUED POLITICAL STRENGTH--THIS GROUP IS FINANCING SOME OF THE RECENT STREET DISTURBANCES. IN THE CURRENT TENSE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, FERNANDEZ WILL NOT WANT TO RILE THEM FURTHER, AND THE TRUTH COMMISSION IS UNWILLING TO PUSH TOO HARD. END COMMENT. HRINAK

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