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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SANTO DOMINGO 007778

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/21/2006 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, DR

SUBJECT: GODR RESPONDS TO OAS ON DISAPPEARANCE OF NARCISO GONZALEZ

REF: A) 94 SANTO DOMINGO 10193 B) SANTO DOMINGO 6997 C) SANTO DOMINGO 7339

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/GIS REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D) DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 NOV 2021 DATE/CASE ID: 13 JAN 2012 201005498

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8.

(C) SUMMARY: AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHCR), THE GODR HAS RENEWED ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE MAY, 1994 DISAPPEARANCE OF PROFESSOR NARCISO (NARCISAZO) GONZALEZ (REF A). OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, MANY PEOPLE CLOSE TO THE CASE HAVE SHARED THEIR "KNOWLEDGE" WITH VARIOUS EMBASSY OFFICERS, BUT A COMPLETE PICTURE HAS NOT YET EMERGED. ALMOST ANYONE WITH INFORMATION HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION. PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ SEEMS COMMITTED TO A PUBLIC SEARCH

(C) ON OCTOBER 11, THE AD HOC TRUTH COMMISSION 3. FORMED TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS BEHIND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NARCISAZO, TOOK ITS CASE TO THE IAHRC, WHICH IN TURN ASKED THE GODR TO REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE. ATTORNEY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ DEL ORBE SUBSEQUENTLY DIRECTED ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO COOPERATE WITH THE MAGISTRATE DIRECTING THE INVESTIGATION. RESPONDING TO THE IAHRC ON NOVEMBER 11, THE GODR NOTED THE INQUIRY WOULD TAKE TIME BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF WITNESSES INVOLVED AND THEIR CONCERN FOR THEIR SAFETY.

FOR THE TRUTH. END SUMMARY.

4. (C) IN RECENT WEEKS, SEVERAL EMBOFFS HAVE HEARD CONFLICTING STORIES FROM CURRENT OR FORMER OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE CASE. ACCORDING TO A BLENDING OF THESE ACCOUNTS, NARCIZASO WAS ABDUCTED BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WHO, UNAWARE OF HIS EPILEPSY, ABUSED HIM, TRIGGERING GRAND MAL SEIZURES. DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SANTO 07778 01 OF 02 221941Z THOSE SEIZURES, NARCIZASO WAS INJURED OR INJURED HIMSELF. PANICKING, HIS CAPTORS FIRST ATTEMPTED TO TAKE THE INCREASINGLY DISTRESSED NARCISO TO A POLICE STATION, BUT WERE TURNED AWAY BY POLICE WHO DID NOT WANT THE BLAME FOR INJURIES THE MILITARY HAD INFLICTED. FINALLY, NARCISO WAS TAKEN TO SAN ISIDRO AIR FORCE BASE, WHERE HE DIED. THE BODY WAS LATER DROPPED INTO THE SEA FROM AN AIR FORCE HELICOPTER.

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6. (C) THE ORIGINAL 32 PAGE NATIONAL POLICE REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION WAS OVERSEEN BY GENERAL RAFAEL GUERRERO PERALTA, POLICE CHIEF AT THE TIME OF NARCISO'S DISAPPEARANCE. GUERRERO HAD REQUESTED FBI SUPPORT FOR HIS INVESTIGATION, BUT WAS DISMISSED ONE DAY BEFORE AN FBI POLYGRAPH TEAM WAS TO ARRIVE.

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WITHOUT ASSIGNMENT. 8.

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GUERRERO REMAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY A SUBSEQUENT POLICE REPORT OF 1200 PAGES WAS SUBMITTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON NOVEMBER

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SUBJECT: GODR RESPONDS TO OAS ON DISAPPEARANCE OF NARCISO GONZALEZ

7. (C) AN ADDITIONAL ELEMENT OF THE CASE INVOLVES AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SILVESTRE BATISTA FERRERA, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS THE LAST MAN TO SEE NARCISO ALIVE AT SAN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANTO 07778 02 OF 02 221941Z ISIDRO. BATISTA HIMSELF LATER DIED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WERE TERMED ACCIDENTAL.

9. (C) COMMENT: PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ, WHO KNEW NARCISO PERSONALLY FROM HIS UNIVERSITY DAYS, APPEARS COMMITTED TO A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION. SHOULD THE CASE BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL, IT WOULD BE PRESENTED BY SANTO DOMINGO PROSECUTOR GUILLERMO MORENO, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE TRUTH COMMISSION, WHO LIKEWISE SEEMS DETERMINED TO SEEK THE TRUTH. STILL, THE WHOLE TRUTH MAYBE HARD TO FIND. SOME CLOSE TO THE CASE ARE NOW TRYING TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES EITHER BY DEFLECTING ATTENTION TO OTHERS AND/OR IMPLICATING RIVALS OR OLD ENEMIES.

10. (C) THE REAL TEST OF THE GODR'S DETERMINATION WILL BE TO PURSUE SERIOUSLY LEADS

VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION COULD ALSO PROVOKE AN EQUALLY STRONG REACTION FROM THE GUILTY. HRINAK

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