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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 EB-01 EUR-01 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-16 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-01 SP-00 SR-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 USIE-00 SNIS-00 NISC-02 PMB-00 PRME-01 PRMC-01 DRL-09 G-01 /043W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8950
INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SANTO DOMINGO 005570

DEPT FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/PPC AND HA/BA MOSCOW FOR POL - TONY ARIAS JUSTICE FOR DAG/ICITAP - D. KRISKOVICH

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, KJUS, PINS, DR

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR REMAINS

UNRESOLVED

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 5184

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SUMMARY

1. (C) THE MAY 26 DISAPPEARANCE OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UASD) PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ CONTINUES TO REMAIN AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY. BOTH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (DNI) ARE INVESTIGATING THE CASE. THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS BEGUN TO ALLOW GONZALEZ'S RELATIVES TO CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS OF ITS PRISONS AND IS ALSO INVESTIGATING A LEAD PROVIDED BY GONZALEZ' WIFE. WE HAVE HEARD VARIOUS

UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE. THERE CONTINUES TO EXIST A WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION THAT GONZALEZ DISAPPEARED BECAUSE OF HIS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER. END SUMMARY.

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## SECURITY SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS

2. (U) AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUED CLAMOR OVER THE MAY 26 DISAPPEARANCE OF UASD PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ (REFTEL), PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INVESTIGATIONS (DNI) TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION BY THE NATIONAL POLICE SPEARHEADED BY THE COMMANDERS OF THE HOMICIDE AND SECRET SERVICE DEPARTMENTS. ON JUNE 17, THE NATIONAL POLICE ALSO INITIATED A SERIES OF PRISON INSPECTION VISITS BY RELATIVES OF GONZALEZ TO SUPPORT THE POLICE CONTENTION THAT GONZALEZ IS NOT BEING HELD BY THE NATIONAL POLICE.

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3. (U) THE NATIONAL POLICE CLAIMS TO HAVE INTERROGATED MORE THAN 200 PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE, INCLUDING SOME MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION, THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE OWNER OF A JEEP WITH OFFICIAL LICENSE PLATE 0-11172. THE WIFE OF GONZALEZ CLAIMS THAT EYEWITNESSES HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THIS VEHICLE WAS INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING OF GONZALEZ AT THE INTERSECTION OF DUARTE AND PARIS AVENUES ON THE EVENING OF MAY 26.

### RUMORS ABOUND

4. (S/NF) AS NOTED IN REFTEL, GONZALEZ' WIFE ACCUSED ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE (J-2) OF DETAINING THE UASD PROFESSOR. A DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) VICE PRESIDENT TOLD POLOFFS THAT A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER SYMPATHETIC TO THE PRD TOLD HIM THAT GONZALEZ HAD INITIALLY BEEN DETAINED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE SECRET SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND LATER MOVED FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO THE DOMINICAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS AT SAN ISIDRO AIRBASE. RUMORS FROM PRO-GOVERNMENT SOURCES INCLUDE CLAIMS THAT GONZALEZ STAGED HIS OWN KIDNAPPING

OR THAT HE HAS SECRETLY LEFT FOR CUBA. (COMMENT: NONE OF THESE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIATED WITH CREDIBLE EVIDENCE.)

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COMMENT

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SANTO 05570 231410Z PAGE 04 5. (C) REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS, WHICH REMAINED TO BE DETERMINED, MANY OF OUR CONTACTS CLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION THAT GONZALEZ DISAPPEARED BECAUSE OF HIS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER. HAVE ALSO HEARD THE OFFICIAL DENIALS OF POLICE AUTHORITIES THAT THEY ARE HOLDING GONZALEZ, AND THE POLICE HAVE OFFERED TO LET THE FAMILY CHECK THE PRISONS. THIS PERCEPTION HAS CAUSED CONCERN AND PROBABLY SOME CAUTION AMONG DOMINICAN INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES. SOME HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED A FEAR THAT THIS INCIDENT MAY PRESAGE A RETURN TO THE DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITY WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST TWELVE EARS OF RUE BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER. **PASTORINO** 

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