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

2. (C) SUMMARY. IN HER FIRST CALL ON SECRETARY OF
   INTERIOR AND POLICE NORGE BOTELLO, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED
   LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS
   WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTING HAITIAN EFFORTS.
   ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF RESOLVING THE CASE OF
   DISAPPEARED PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ, BOTELLO REMARKED
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INVESTIGATION IS A GOOD SIGN. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) AMBASSADOR TOLD SECRETARY OF INTERIOR BOTELLO THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING EXCELLENT COOPERATION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS WITH THE FERNANDEZ ADMINISTRATION. BOTELLO SAID HE TOO WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH COOPERATION GIVEN THE CHALLENGES THE NEW DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT FACES. IN ADDITION TO COOPERATING ON OPERATIONS, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT FOR MANY YEARS THE USG HAS BEEN PROVIDING TRAINING TO THE NATIONAL POLICE THROUGH ICITAP. BOTELLO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE ICITAP TRAINING. HE SAID SUCH TRAINING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL CADRE IN THE NP WHICH WILL BE A VALUABLE RESOURCE IN MODERNIZING THE ORGANIZATION.


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5. (C) REGARDING HAITI, AMBASSADOR NOTED THE U.S. DESIRE TO ASSIST THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IN ADDRESSING LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES. INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS, SHE SAID, ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE POROUS BORDER BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, SHE NOTED COLOMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARE USING BOTH SIDES OF THE ISLAND TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS AND PERSONS SEEKING TO MIGRATE TO THE U.S. ILLEGALLY ARE ENTERING THE ISLAND VIA HAITI. AMBASSADOR NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ALSO

UNCLASSIFIED
AUGMENTING ITS COOPERATION WITH HAITI TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES. BOTELLO RESPONDED HE WOULD BE LOOKING SERIOUSLY AT THE SUGGESTION AS HE WORKS TO DEFINE AND RESTRUCTURE THE MISSION OF HIS MINISTRY.

6. (C) ASKED ABOUT THE CASE OF DISAPPEARED PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ, BOTELLO CONCURRED THAT PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ'S RECENT STATEMENTS AT THE SANTO DOMINGO AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY, WHERE GONZALEZ HAD TAUGHT, WERE A POSITIVE SIGN. ON A VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY, THE PRESIDENT PLEDGED THE CASE WOULD BE RESOLVED. GONZALEZ HAD BEEN WELL-KNOWN TO THE PRESIDENT, HE NOTED, ADDING WEIGHT TO THE SUPPOSITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION SERIOUSLY. BOTELLO CLARIFIED THAT WHILE HE IS PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE, HIS MINISTRY DOES NOT HAVE DIRECT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY. SINCE THE CRIME HAD OCCURRED IN SANTO DOMINGO, HE NOTED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL DISTRICT HAS INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY IN THE CASE.

7. (C) AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THE GODR CONSIDER

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8. (C) AMBASSADOR LAMENTED THAT THE DR HAD NEVER PROSECUTED AN ALIEN SMUGGLER OR ILLEGAL DOCUMENT VENDOR DESPITE LONG RECORDS OF ARRESTS FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A CONTACT TO DEVELOP JOINT OPERATIONS IN THIS AREA, BOTELLO SUGGESTED WE FOLLOW UP WITH A SUBSECRETARY OF STATE, LUIS GONZALO GONZALEZ CANAHUATE. (CONSULAR SECTION WILL DO SO.) BOTELLO ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEED FOR REFORM IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM
IF THESE, AND MANY OTHER CRIMINALS, ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

9. (C) COMMENT. THE MINISTRY HAS SUCCESSFULLY DRIVEN
OUT THE "FACILITATORS" FROM ITS SANTO DOMINGO HEADQUARTERS. ACHIEVING ITS LONG-TERM GOALS, HOWEVER, WILL BE HARDER DUE TO ENTRENCHED SOCIETAL CORRUPTION AND SPARTAN GOVERNMENT BUDGETS. BOTELLO IS ONE OF SEVERAL NEW SENIOR GODR OFFICIALS WE HAVE MET WHO SEEM COMMITTED TO OVERCOMING THESE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES AND HAVE ALREADY MADE SOME PROGRESS. AS USG INTERESTS ARE CLOSELY TIED TO DOMINICAN SUCCESS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTERS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE.

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