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

U S O A S

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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UNCLASSIFIED
2. (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
FOR THE TRUTH. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) ON OCTOBER 11, THE AD HOC TRUTH COMMISSION
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.

4. (C) IN RECENT WEEKS, SEVERAL EMBASSYS 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
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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.
GUERRERO REMAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITHOUT ASSIGNMENT. A SUBSEQUENT POLICE REPORT OF 1200 PAGES WAS SUBMITTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 8.
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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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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 A VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION COULD ALSO PROVOKE AN EQUALLY STRONG REACTION FROM THE GUILTY.

HRINAK