PASS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2007
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KJUS, DR

SUBJECT: NARCISAZO CASE: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 243

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

2. (C) THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT LEONEL

3. (C) THE PRESIDENT URGED, BY STATING HIS FIRM DETERMINATION THAT THE NARCISAZO CASE MUST BE THOROUGHLY PURSUED AND THE GUILTY IDENTIFIED AND PUNISHED, JUDGE HENRIQUEZ TO SHOW COURAGE, LIKE THE JUDGE OF INSTRUCTION IN ANOTHER HIGH-PROFILE CASE, THAT OF A BALAGUER GOVERNMENT CRITIC WHO WAS KILLED IN 1975, ORLANDO MARTINEZ. AT THE SAME TIME, FERNANDEZ STATED HIS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING JUDGE HENRIQUEZ NEEDS TO PROCEED WITH THE CASE AND ASKED IF FBI ASSISTANCE WITH THE INVESTIGATION WOULD, INDEED, BE POSSIBLE IF THE NATIONAL POLICE FORMALLY REQUEST SUPPORT. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED WE HAD OFFERED FBI HELP

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WITH THIS CASE TWICE IN THE PAST, THE FIRST TIME AFTER IT WAS REQUESTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE. PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ SAID HE WOULD REVIEW WITH POLICE AND JUSTICE OFFICIALS THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWING THE REQUEST.

4. (C) COMMENT: AS NOTED REFTEL, POST IS WAITING FOR THE JUDGE TO RESUBMIT THE REQUEST FOR FBI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IN RECENT WEEKS THE NARCISAZO CASE HAS FALLEN FROM THE HEADLINES AS ANOTHER JUDGE OF INSTRUCTION VIGOROUSLY PURSUES THE OLDER MARTINEZ CASE.
POST HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE IN THAT CASE. RESOLUTION OF THE EITHER MATTER WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO PROVE THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW AND WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE JUDICIARY. END COMMENT HRINAK