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ACTION WHA-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SRPP-00 EB-00
H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OPIC-01 PRS-00 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00
SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PRM-01 DRL-02 G-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3958

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SENSITIVE NOFORN

FOR WHA/CAR - M. BARNICLE AND DRL - S. KOVALIK

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, DR
SUBJECT: POST RESPONSE TO VERSION 2 OF THE 1998 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES

REF: A) STATE 32176 B) SANTO DOMINGO 648

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. (U) FOLLOWING IS POST'S RESPONSE TO VERSION 2 OF THE 1998 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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3. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.A., PARAGRAPH 1: IN THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "TWO NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS..." REPLACE "DOMINICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION" WITH "NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION"

4. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.A., PARAGRAPH 4: IN THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING..." INSERT "FROM THE UNITED STATES" AFTER "EXTRADITION"

5. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.A., PARAGRAPH 5: MODIFY THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "IN AN INTERVIEW AT THAT TIME..." TO READ "IN A 1998 INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALISTS..."
6. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.A., PARAGRAPH 5: MODIFY THE LAST SENTENCE TO END "A DEPOSITION TO BE TAKEN AT HIS HOME, THOUGH NO DATE HAS YET BEEN AGREED UPON."

7. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.A., PARAGRAPH 8: PER REF B, DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH. THESE EVENTS DID NOT COME TO THE ATTENTION OF POST.


9. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.C., PARAGRAPH 3: PER REF B, DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH. THIS PARTICULAR EVENT DID NOT COME TO THE ATTENTION OF POST. ALSO, SQUATTERS CANNOT NECESSARILY BE CALLED UNCLASSIFIED

10. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.E., PARAGRAPH THAT BEGINS "THE SUPREME COURT CONTINUED..." REPLACE "90 ERCENT" WITH "TWO THIRDS"

11. (SBU/NF) SECTION 1.F., PARAGRAPH 3: PER REF B, DELETE THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "THE POLICE REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED..." THESE ALLEGED EVENTS OCCURRED IN 1997 AND WERE NOT INCLUDED IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT.


13. (SBU/NF) SECTION 2.B., PARAGRAPH 1, PER REF B, DELETE THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "IN JANUARY THE POLICE ARRESTED PROTESTING BUS DRIVERS..." THIS WAS A RELATIVELY MINOR INCIDENT AND IS ALREADY COVERED IN THE REPORT. THIS INCIDENT MERITS AT BEST ONE MENTION IN THE REPORT, NOT THREE.

14. (SBU/NF) SECTION 3, PARAGRAPH 2: IN THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "THE RULING PLD AND THE OPPOSITION..." REPLACE "CONSENSUS" WITH "THAT BOARD MEMBERS BE APOLITICAL OR APPORTIONED AMONG THE THREE MAJOR PARTIES."

15. (SBU/NF) SECTION 3, PARAGRAPH 3: REPLACE THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ HAS ENCOURAGED ALLIES IN THE LEGISLATURE..." WITH "PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ REDUCED THE RELIANCE ON
RULE BY DECREE DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION."

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16. (SBU/NF) SECTION 4, PARAGRAPH 2: PER REF B, DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH. THESE ALLEGED EVENTS OCCURRED IN 1997 AND WERE NOT/NOT INCLUDED IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT.

17. (SBU/NF) SECTION 5, MINORITIES PARAGRAPH 3: CHECK FOR POSSIBLE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS - "AREUNABLE" "ASA" "BRTHS" "THEREB"

18. (SBU/NF) SECTION 5, MINORITIES PARAGRAPH 6: PER REF B, DELETE "INTERNATIONAL" IN THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "GENERALLY THE GOVERNMENT RELIES UPON..."


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REPORT. IF YOU PLAN TO USE THESE SENTENCES OVER POST'S OBJECTION, THEN MODIFY THE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ "LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS AND 30 DRIVERS HELD A SHORT HUNGER STRIKE IN APRIL TO PROTEST THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW LINE OF BUSES."

21. (SBU/NF) SECTION 6.C., PARAGRAPH 1: PER REF B, MODIFY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "POOR HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN PARENTS FREQUENTLY..." TO READ "POOR HAITIAN AND DOMINICAN PARENTS SOMETIMES..."


23. (SBU/NF) SECTION 6.C., PARAGRAPH 3: DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH.

24. (SBU/NF) SECTION 6.D., PARAGRAPH 1: IN THE SENTENCE THAT BEGINS "THE LAW PROHIBITS FORCED OR BONDED LABOR..." INSERT "SOMETIMES" BEFORE "ARRANGE"

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