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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AMAD-01 ACQ-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 SMEC-00
CTME-00 INL-01 DODE-00 ITCE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00
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FRE-00 HHS-01 H-01 SSA-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00
ITC-01 L-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7417
INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CCGDEVEN MIAMI FL
COMCOGARD GANTSEC SAN JUAN PR
DEA HQS WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
DIA WASHINGTON DC
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USDA FAS WASHDC 0499
USDOT WASHDC
USINS WASHDC
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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA, USOAS, INL, INR, IO, DRL, H
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS CARIBBEAN COLLECTIVE
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AID
DEA HQS PASS DEA MIAMI FOR STATE/INL - G DEL PRADO
JUSTICE FOR CRIM/OIA AND CRIM/NDDS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, DR
SUBJECT: DOMINICAN HIGHLIGHTS: MAR 11 - MAR. 17, 2000

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1. (U) In his March 15 speech to the Dominican-American Chamber of Commerce, the Ambassador strongly emphasized the need for the DR to act immediately to pass trips-compliant IPR legislation. Without good IPR protection, he said, the Dominican Republic is not going to find it easy to attract investment in high-tech industries. It also may not qualify for unilateral benefits such as CBI enhancement. Sitting at the head table and listening carefully were Secretary of Industry and Commerce Bonetti, in charge of GDR IPR policy formulation, and Chamber of Deputies President Rafaela Alburquerque, whose deliberative body may soon vote on a new patent law.

FIVE EXPRESS INTEREST IN CDA

2. (U) On March 14, four companies presented qualifying documentation to participate in bidding for the capitalization of Compania Dominicana de Aviacion (CDA), the non-flying, heavily indebted state-owned airline. The potential bidders are Freidman Turby & Co. (US), Aserca Airlines (Venezuela), Lauda Air (Austria) and Allegro (Mexico). The commission for the reform of state enterprises will soon announce which of the companies have met minimum conditions, at which time a date will be set for presentation of economic offers.

COPS SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF NARCO

3. (U) Last week a Dominican police court convicted two corporals and two enlisted members of the Dominican National Police of planning to help narcotrafficker Rolando Florian Feliz escape from Monte Plata prison. Monte Plata prison is under police jurisdiction. Florian is doing time in the Dominican Republic on drug charges. We have sought his extradition, without success, for some time now.

4. (U) The corporals, Martinez Sanchez Meran and Enrique Mateo Reyes, each received two-year sentences. One enlisted policeman, Cristian de Jesus Zapata, received a two-year sentence; the court sentenced the
OTHER, JULIO RAMIREZ DE LA CRUZ, TO SIX MONTHS IN PRISON. ANOTHER FORMER ENLISTED POLICEMAN, JORGE GALAN VICIOSO, ACCUSED OF HAVING ACCEPTED A GIFT OF A SUIT FROM FLORIAN.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES


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REFORMIST PARTY (PRSC) DEPUTY, SIX FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
DOMINICAN LIBERATION PARTY (PLD), AND TWELVE FROM THE
DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) HAVE FAILED TO
MAKE DECLARATIONS.

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IT'S NATURAL TO PROTECT YOURSELF
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6. (U) THE THIRD PHASE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED BY A
CONSORTIUM OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL GROUPS. THE
CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN TARGETED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 14 TO
19 YEARS (MORE THAN 2 MILLION INDIVIDUALS) WHO ARE
BELIEVED TO BE JUST BEGINNING THEIR PERIOD OF MAXIMUM
SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND ATTEMPTS TO RAISE INDIVIDUAL
CONSCIENCES ABOUT THE RISKS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND TO
ENCOURAGE CHANGES IN ATTITUDE AND IN BEHAVIOR. PHASE
ONE'S MESSAGE WAS "CHANGE YOUR APPROACH TO SEX;" PHASE
TWO'S WAS "SEX CAN WAIT." PHASE THREE, WHICH PROMOTES
USE OF CONDOMS BY THOSE WHO ARE SEXUALLY ACTIVE, TELLS
YOUNG PEOPLE "IT'S NATURAL TO PROTECT YOURSELF."
PROGRAM SPONSORS INCLUDE PUBLIC HEALTH'S PROGRAM FOR
CONTROL OF STD'S AND AIDS (PROCETS), NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (INSAU), THE EUROPEAN UNION'S
PROJECT OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM OF PREVENTION OF
STD'S/HIV/AIDS (PREVIHSA), THE UNITED NATIONS' JOINT
PROGRAM FOR HIV/AIDS (ONUSIDA), NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
THE STUDY OF AIDS (CONASIDA), COALITION NGO-AIDS (ONG-
SIDA), AND USAID'S ACCION SIDA. THERE ARE 691
REPORTED CASES OF AIDS IN THE 15-24 AGE GROUP, WITH AN
ESTIMATED UNDERREPORTING OF 50 TO 70%:

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

7. (U) A DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN REFORM PARTY
(PRSC) OF EX-PRESIDENT JOAQUÍN BALAGUER, DR. PEDRO
ROMERO CONFESOR, CALLED THE ATTACK BY THE FAMILY OF
MURDERED JOURNALIST ORLANDO MARTÍNEZ HOWLEY ON THE
CURRENT CANDIDACY OF BALAGUER A JURIDICAL ABSURDITY.
ROMERO CONFESOR ARGUED THAT AT MOST BALAGUER COULD BE
CALLED AS A WITNESS IN THE TRIAL OF THE SUPPOSED
AUTHORS OF THE MURDER, AND THAT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE
NOTORIOUS BLANK PAGE IN HIS BOOK, MEMOIR OF A COURTIER
OF THE TRUJILLO ERA. WHEN WRITING ABOUT MARTÍNEZ
HOWLEY IN HIS MEMOIR, BALAGUER LEFT AN EMPTY PAGE,
SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE FILLED WITH THE TESTIMONY OF
ONE WHO WOULD COME LATER AND REVEAL DETAILS OF THE
ASSASSINATION 25 YEARS AGO.

THE INVESTIGATION OF THE 1994 DISAPPEARANCE OF
JOURNALIST AND BALAGUER CRITIC NARCISO "NARCISAZO"
GONZÁLEZ, RESUMED LAST WEEK AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF
INACTIVITY. EXAMINING MAGISTRATE EDUARDO SANCHEZ
ORTIZ CALLED COL. SANTOS MORA, WHO WAS AN ASSISTANT TO
THE EX-CHIEF OF POLICE, RAFAEL GUERRERO PERALTA. ON
COURT DR. JORGE SUBERO ISA HAD INSTRUCTED DR. SANCHEZ
ORTIZ TO HURRY UP AND CONCLUDE THE INVESTIGATION.

THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE
9. (U) AT THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON "VIOLENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC", DR. ADALGISA SANTANA MARCANO CALLED FOR THE UPROOTING OF CERTAIN CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES ENTRENCHED IN DOMINICAN CULTURE IN ORDER TO MAKE REAL THE PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ESTABLISHED IN THE LAW. "TEXTBOOKS AND LAWS ARE NOT ENOUGH," SHE SAID. "WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THESE REQUIRE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE." DR. SANTANA MARCANO CHARGED OFFICIALS TO GO AFTER NOT ONLY THE VIOLENCE COMMITTED BY ONE CHILD AGAINST ANOTHER, BUT ALSO THE
iltered.

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INJURIES DONE TO CHILDREN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

10. (U) NATIONAL DISTRICT CHIEF PROSECUTOR FRANCISCO
DOMINGUEZ BRITO, SPEAKING AT THE SAME CONFERENCE ON
THE TOPIC "VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS", SAID THAT NOT
ONLY THE POLICE IN MANY CASES TURN INTO VIOLENT AND
AGGRESSIVE ENTITIES, BUT EVEN JUDICIAL ACTORS SUCH AS
JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS EXERCISE THEIR AUTHORITY IN
WAYS THAT GENERATE VIOLENCE. WHEN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM
FAILS TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS, IT GENERATES
AN INVISIBLE VIOLENCE HARSHER THAN THAT OF A BILLY
CLUB. VIOLENCE OCCURS NOT ONLY WHEN THE POLICE KILL
WHEN THEY COULD AVOID IT, BUT ALSO WHEN, BY WORD OR
DEED, A WALL IS CREATED BETWEEN THE POOR AND THEIR
ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

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