

PTQ7581

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	ANHR-01	SRPP-00
	EB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00
	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PC-01
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/028W

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R 251910Z SEP 96  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2644  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SANTO DOMINGO 006523

E.O. 12958: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, HA, DR  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF  
INTERIOR AND POLICE NORGE BOTELLO

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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THAT PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ'S EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A FULL

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.

4. (C) BOTELLO, WHOSE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE WAS AS MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, REMARKED THAT WORKING FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IS A NEW EXPERIENCE. IMPLEMENTING THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IS ONE OF HIS HIGHEST PRIORITIES, SPECIFICALLY, CLEANING UP THE MINISTRY. AN EARLY FOCUS, HE SAID HAS BEEN ON THE GUN REGISTRATION OFFICE, ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY. BOTELLO SAID HE FOUND THE OFFICE COMPLETELY IN THE HANDS OF OUTSIDE "FACILITATORS." AS PART OF THE EFFORT, HE SAID, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IS ALSO LOOKING AT THE "SERIOUS PROBLEM" OF THE ILLEGAL FLOW OF ARMS INTO THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FROM HAITI.

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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

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.

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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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PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FORA, SUCH AS THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE. BOTELLO OBSERVED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT BALAGUER CONCENTRATED ON DOMESTIC, RATHER THAN FOREIGN MATTERS. PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ, ON THE OTHER HAND, RECOGNIZED THAT THE D.R.'S PROGRESS WAS CONTINGENT ON BECOMING MORE COGNIZANT OF WORLD TRENDS. BOTELLO NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR GAUTREAU HAD ALREADY ATTENDED A REGIONAL IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS, AND HAD TENTATIVE PLANS TO ATTEND ANOTHER IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

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

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IF THESE, AND MANY OTHER CRIMINALS, ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

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9. (C) COMMENT. THE MINISTRY HAS SUCCESSFULLY DRIVEN

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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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