

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01            SANTO 05540 221603Z  
 ACTION DRL-09

RELEASED IN PART  
 B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	ARA-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16
	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	SNIS-00
	NISC-02	PMB-00	PRME-01	G-01	/044W		

-----54BF43 221604Z /38

P 221600Z JUN 94  
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8928  
 INFO CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA  
 USIA WASHDC 2553  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 005540

DEPT FOR DRL/BA AND ARA/CAR  
 MOSCOW FOR POL - TONY ARIAS  
 USIA FOR AR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PROP, PINS, DR  
 SUBJECT: REPORTS OF GOVERNING PARTY INTIMIDATION OF  
 INTELLECTUALS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 5184 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

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 1. CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY  
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2. THE DR'S MOST PROMINENT JUDICIAL REFORM ADVOCATE  
 HAS EXPRESSED TO US CONCERNS ABOUT HIS PROFESSIONAL  
 LIVELIHOOD AND PERSONAL SAFETY AFTER BEING THE  
 RECIPIENT OF WHAT HE CHARACTERIZES AS A GOVERNMENT-  
 SPONSORED PRESSURE CAMPAIGN. THE NEWS DIRECTOR OF A  
 LOCAL TV STATION REPORTS THAT A SENIOR GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 JUN 2019  
 DATE/CASE ID: 27 DEC 2011 201005498

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OFFICIAL HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT FAVORITISM IN THE STATION'S NEWSCASTS AND COMMENTARIES; THE NEWS DIRECTOR INTERPRETS THIS APPROACH AS A MESSAGE TO SOFTEN CRITICISMS OF ELECTORAL PROBLEMS. GIVEN THE HIGH STAKES, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE GOVERNING PARTY IS ATTEMPTING TO MUTE ITS CRITICS THROUGH PRESSURE TACTICS. END SUMMARY.

PRESSURE ON JUDICIAL REFORM ADVOCATE  
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3. DURING A JUNE 14 MEETING WITH POL COUNS AND LABOFF, DOMINICAN LEGAL EXPERT MILTON RAY GUEVARA EXPRESSED ANGER AND CONCERN OVER WHAT HE CALLED A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PRESSURE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. ACCORDING TO RAY, THE CAMPAIGN BEGAN AFTER HE PUBLISHED A SPECULATIVE ARTICLE ON CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSION SHOULD THE ELECTORAL SITUATION REMAIN DEADLOCKED ON THE AUGUST 16 INAUGURATION DATE FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, AN OFFICIAL FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL  
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PALACE PRESS OFFICE VISITED THE OFFICE OF RAY'S THINK TANK (FUNDACION INSTITUCIONALIDAD Y JUSTICA) TO DEMAND A COPY OF "THE ARTICLE WHICH CRITICIZED PRESIDENT BALAGUER." THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY APPROACHES BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO CLIENTS OF RAY GUEVARA'S LAW FIRM ASKING THE CLIENTS TO DESIST FROM USING RAY'S SERVICES. (NOTE: RAY AND HIS THINK TANK ARE THE PRIME SUBCONTRACTOR FOR THE NEW AID ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE PROJECT.)

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MEDIA TOLD TO GO EASY ON THE CRITICISMS  
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5. THE NEWS DIRECTOR OF A DOMINICAN TV STATION TOLD AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE JUNE 11 THAT THE STATION OWNER HAD WARNED HIM OF PRESIDENTIAL DISPLEASURE OVER THE FORCEFUL CRITICISMS OF THE ELECTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN AIRED ON THE STATION'S TALK SHOWS. THE OWNER SAID A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ADVISED HIM THAT "PRESIDENT BALAGUER IS SURPRISED AND CONCERNED THAT THE STATION WAS FAVORING THE OPPOSITION IN ITS NEWSCASTS AND COMMENTARIES." THE NEW DIRECTOR SAID THE STATION OWNER DID NOT EXPLICITLY WARN HIM TO TONE DOWN THE CRITICISMS BUT THAT HE (THE NEWS DIRECTOR) INTERPRETED IT AS SUCH.

6. THE NEWS DIRECTOR ALSO REPORTED THAT A WELL-KNOWN COLUMNIST AND FORMER NEWSPAPER EDITOR HAS BEEN TOLD TO BEGIN SUBMITTING HIS COLUMNS THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION IN A LEADING AFTERNOON DAILY. THE COLUMNIST BELIEVES THAT THE NEWSPAPER'S MANAGEMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO GOAD HIM INTO QUITTING.  
PASTORINO

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