

PTQ5662

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-04	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/018W	

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O 151110Z MAY 98

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0094

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 002360

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/1/2003

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, DR

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN REQUEST FOR POLYGRAPH

DEPT. OF STATE FOR ARA DAS JOHN R. HAMILTON

DEPT. OF JUSTICE FOR MARY LEE WARREN

REF.: (A) WATT-PHONE CONVERSATION 5/14/98
 (B) WATT-HAMILTON EMAIL 5/14/98
 (C) HAMILTON-WATT EMAIL 5/14/98

CLASSIFIED BY LINDA E. WATT, CHARGE. REASON: 1.5(D).

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAGRAPH 7.

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2. (C) DOMINICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL ABEL RODRIGUEZ DEL ORBE HAS REQUESTED A POLYGRAPH MACHINE AND OPERATOR TO ADMINISTER A LIE DETECTOR TEST TO TWO SUSPECTS IN THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE. RODRIGUEZ DEL ORBE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE TEST CONDUCTED MAY 19, IF POSSIBLE.

3. (C) THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE IS POSSIBLY THE LAST POLITICAL DISAPPEARANCE DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER. GONZALEZ, A PROFESSOR AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO, DISAPPEARED MAY 26, 1994. A FEW WEEKS EARLIER, GONZALEZ ALLEGED IN AN ARTICLE THAT BALAGUER WAS ONE OF THE MOST CORRUPT LEADERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THAT HE HAD STOLEN THE 1994 ELECTIONS THROUGH FRAUD. THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT PROMISED IT WOULD INVESTIGATE THE DISAPPEARANCE, BUT NEVER BROUGHT EVIDENCE TO LIGHT.

4. (C) WHEN FERNANDEZ REPLACED BALAGUER IN AUGUST 1996, THE NEW PRESIDENT INSISTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONDUCT ITS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO THIS LIKELY POLITICAL MURDER. FERNANDEZ APPOINTED AN INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE WHO BEGAN TO CALL WITNESSES AND PURSUE LEADS, BUT THE JUDGE ENCOUNTERED A WALL OF SILENCE FROM FORMER GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. UNTIL MARCH 1997, THE FERNANDEZ ADMINISTRATION DID NOT INSIST MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY HIERARCHY AND OFFICIALS OF THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION. UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE FERNANDEZ GOVERNMENT HAS PURSUED THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE MORE AGGRESSIVELY DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS. PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ HAS NEVER ARGUED PUBLICLY THAT

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INVESTIGATORS AND THE COURTS SHOULD COMPEL FORMER
PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO TESTIFY ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE.

5. (C) MEMBERS OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL TRUTH COMMISSION, WHICH WAS FORMED TO LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE, TELL US THEY HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS TIPS FROM MID-LEVEL MILITARY FIGURES. THEY ARE NOW SHARING THESE TIPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

6. (C) POST STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE GODR'S REQUEST FOR POLYGRAPH SUPPORT. BY FINALLY RESOLVING THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE, THE GODR WOULD SEND AN UNMISTAKABLE SIGNAL THAT IT INSISTS UPON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

7. (C) ACTION REQUEST. POST REQUESTS THAT DOJ PROVIDE A POLYGRAPHER AND EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST THE GODR IN THE QUESTIONING OF SUSPECTS IN THE NARCISO GONZALEZ CASE.

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