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	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01
	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01
	PM-00	PRB-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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R 192019Z JUN 98  
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0592  
 INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 USIA WASHDC 4252  
 COMCOGARD GANTSEC SAN JUAN PR  
 COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC  
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//NMIJ-J2//  
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL//POLAD/SCCC/SCJ2/SCJ3/JOIC/HSE//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTO DOMINGO 002959

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 TAGS: PGOV, PINR, CVIS, PREL, SNAR, PHUM, DR  
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 SUBJECT: DOMINICAN HIGHLIGHTS -- JUNE 13-19, 1998

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CLASSIFIED BY E P CUBBISON, CHARGE. REASON: 1.5(D)

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FERNANDEZ VISITS HAITI  
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1. (U) DOMINICAN PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNANDEZ REYNA BEGAN AN HISTORIC THIRTY-SIX HOUR STATE VISIT TO PORT AU PRINCE ON JUNE 19. HE IS THE FIRST DOMINICAN HEAD-OF-STATE TO VISIT THE HAITIAN CAPITAL SINCE 1936, WHEN GENERAL RAFAEL LEONIDAS TRUJILLO MADE THE TRIP. IN 1937, OF COURSE, TRUJILLO ORDERED THE SLAUGHTER OF ROUGHLY 20,000 HAITIAN MIGRANTS LIVING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. FERNANDEZ GOES TO HAITI AS THE SENIOR DOMINICAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE HAITIAN-DOMINICAN MIXED COMMISSION, WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING IN PORT AU PRINCE SINCE MONDAY, JUNE 15. WHILE IN PORT AU PRINCE, FERNANDEZ IS MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF HAITI'S POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE HAITIAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HE IS ALSO ADDRESSING THE HAITIAN PARLIAMENT.

2. (C) FROM THE DOMINICAN PERSPECTIVE, THE SIMPLE FACT OF THE VISIT FAR OUTWEIGHS ITS SUBSTANCE. MOST OF OUR CONTACTS WORKING ON THE TRIP HAVE SAID THEY EXPECT IT TO PRODUCE LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE. DOMINICANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON HAITI FOR GENERATIONS, AND FERNANDEZ'S VISIT, HOWEVER TENTATIVE, IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS CHANGING THAT ORIENTATION. THE VISIT IS ALSO PART OF THE BROADER FERNANDEZ ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN.

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3. (U) PRIOR TO THE VISIT, DOMINICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY EDUARDO LATORRE AND HAITIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRITZ LONGCHAMP ANNOUNCED THAT FERNANDEZ AND HAITIAN PRESIDENT RENE GARCIA PREVAL WILL SIGN A SERIES OF MODEST AGREEMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, SPORTS, AGRICULTURE, AND IMMIGRATION. ONE ELEMENT OF THE HEALTH ACCORD WILL BE DOMINICAN ASSISTANCE IN HAITIAN VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND AIDS AND MALARIA EDUCATION AND PREVENTION. THEY MAY SIGN A VAGUELY-WORDED AGREEMENT ON TOURISM, BUT HAITI-PHOBIC VOICES IN THE DOMINICAN TOURISM SECTOR HAVE

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VOCIFEROUSLY RESISTED PROPOSALS TO COORDINATE TOURISM POLICY WITH HAITI OR LINK IN ANY WAY HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS TOURIST DESTINATIONS. THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE LIKEWISE NOT YET REACHED A FINAL IMMIGRATION AGREEMENT ADDRESSING REGULATION OF THE FLOW OF MIGRANTS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THE RIGHTS OF THESE MIGRANTS IN DOMINICAN TERRITORY.

4. (U) DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SHOWN A NOTABLE NERVOUSNESS REGARDING FERNANDEZ'S PERSONAL SECURITY DURING THE VISIT, EVEN CLEARING A MAKESHIFT HELICOPTER PAD ON THE GROUNDS OF THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY IN PORT AU PRINCE IN CASE THEY NEED TO EVACUATE FERNANDEZ FROM HAITI, PRESS REPORTS SAY, BUT THE TRIP SO FAR APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

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NARCISAZO SUSPECT FLEES COUNTRY  
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5. (U) CLAUDIO ANTONIO DE LOS SANTOS ESTEVEZ, A SUSPECT IN THE 1994 DISAPPEARANCE OF NARCISO "NARCISAZO" GONZALEZ, FLEW TO  
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MIAMI JUNE 17 DESPITE AN ORDER BARRING HIM FROM LEAVING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. WE SUSPECT HE IS STILL IN THE UNITED STATES. DE LOS SANTOS WAS A PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE AT THE TIME OF GONZALEZ'S DISAPPEARANCE. AN IMMIGRATION SUPERVISOR AT SANTO DOMINGO'S LAS AMERICAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FEDERICO PEREZ COLON, AUTHORIZED DE LOS SANTOS'S DEPARTURE. AUTHORITIES ARRESTED PEREZ COLON, DISMISSED HIM FROM THE DOMINICAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE, AND ARE INVESTIGATING HIS ACTIONS. DE LOS SANTOS REPORTEDLY CALLED DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES JUNE 19, SAYING HE PLANS TO RETURN HOME AND FACE THE MUSIC.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALLEGES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
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6. (U) AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RELEASED A REPORT IN LONDON THIS WEEK STATING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC "CONTINUE WITH ENDEMIC IMPUNITY" AND SPECIFICALLY ALLEGING POLICE BEATINGS AND UNWARRANTED DETENTIONS. ACTING

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IN THE SAME DEFENSIVE MANNER AS WHEN WE RELEASED OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR, NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF JOSE ANIBAL SANZ JIMINIAN STRONGLY DENIED THE CHARGES. PRESIDENCY SECRETARY DANILO MEDINA DID LIKEWISE, AND ADDED THAT PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNANDEZ AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE CREATED CONDITIONS FOR THE EXERCISE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES. SANZ

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	SAS-00	/033W					

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USIA WASHDC 4253  
COMCOGARD GANTSEC SAN JUAN PR

COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC UNCLASSIFIED

DIA WASHINGTON DC

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JIMINIAN QUESTIONED WHY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS INTERESTED IN ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMINALS BUT REMAINS SILENT WHEN MILITARY OR POLICE ARE INJURED OR KILLED BY ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS.

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MORE TRASH TALK  
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7. (U) THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS HEAVILY INDEBTED TO EVERY FOREIGN COMPANY PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICES HERE. THIS WEEK DIXI SANITARY SERVICE, WHICH PROVIDES TRASH PICKUP FOR 80 PERCENT OF SANTO DOMINGO, REVEALED THAT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OWES IT APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$ 4 MILLION. COMPANY PRESIDENT JAN HENDRICK SAID THE COMPANY CANNOT PAY ITS BILLS AND -- UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS -- ITS INVESTORS ARE UNWILLING TO INVEST IN NEW EQUIPMENT.

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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP  
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8. (U) ON JUNE 18, THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) ELECTED RAMON ALBUQUERQUE OF MONTE PLATA AS ITS CANDIDATE TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN SENATE AFTER THE NEW CONGRESS TAKES OFFICE AUGUST 16. IT ELECTED LONG-TIME PRD ACTIVIST WINSTON ARNAUD AS ITS CANDIDATE TO LEAD THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. ARNAUD REPRESENTS THE NATIONAL DISTRICT OF SANTO DOMINGO. AS THE PARTY WILL ENJOY ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES IN BOTH CHAMBERS, THEIR EVENTUAL ELECTION IS PRETTY MUCH A LOCK.

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PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN  
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9. (U) DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) VICE PRESIDENT HIPOLITO MEJIA RECENTLY PROCLAIMED THAT ONLY HE AND OUTGOING SANTO DOMINGO MAYOR RAFAEL SUBERVI BONILLA HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO CONTEND FOR THE PRD PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. OTHER "PRESIDENCIABLES," SUCH AS SENATOR FROM SANTO DOMINGO MILAGROS ORTIZ BOSCH AND SENATOR RAMON ALBUQUERQUE, HAVE SHOWN THEIR IRRITATION WITH MEJIA'S RATHER COCKY STATEMENT.

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SAMPER VISIT  
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10. (U) COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ERNESTO SAMPER WILL ARRIVE IN SANTO DOMINGO ON JUNE 26. WE DO NOT HAVE FULL DETAILS ON HIS AGENDA, BUT ACCORDING TO RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY DOMINICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY EDUARDO LATORRE, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO INCLUDE COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION.

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TOWERING AUDACITY?  
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11. (C) AUDACIOUS. PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY DIANDINO PENA'S PLAN TO BUILD A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE GROUNDS OF SANTO DOMINGO'S "PLAZA DE LA SALUD" HAS RAISED HACKLES THROUGHOUT THE DOMINICAN POLITICAL SCENE. THE SO-CALLED HEALTH PLAZA, STARTED DURING THE LAST YEARS OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER'S ADMINISTRATION, IS OSTENSIBLY AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD A WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. LIKE MOST MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS HERE IT HAS BEEN MIRED

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IN DELAYS AND ACCUSATIONS OF GRAFT. MANY DOMINICANS BELIEVE  
THAT DURING THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN BALAGUER DIVERTED  
MONEY FROM THE PLAZA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INTO THE COFFERS  
OF PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ'S DOMINICAN LIBERATION PARTY (PLD) IN  
ORDER TO STRENGTHEN FERNANDEZ AND DENY THE PRESIDENCY TO PRD  
CANDIDATE JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ.

12. (C) MORE AUDACIOUS. PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY PENA  
RECENTLY MADE PUBLIC A PROPOSAL TO BUILD NINE 22-STORY  
RESIDENTIAL HIGH-RISES ON PLAZA LAND, WITH APARTMENTS  
TARGETED AT MIDDLE AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS BUYERS. THE  
GOVERNMENT WOULD TARGET POTENTIAL BUYERS WORKING IN THE  
PUBLIC SECTOR AND EXTEND THEM CREDIT TO SAVE THEM THE TROUBLE  
OF LOOKING TO PRIVATE-SECTOR BANKS FOR MORTGAGES. BEFORE  
HANDING THE APARTMENTS OVER TO THE BUYERS, THE GOVERNMENT  
WOULD USE THE COMPLEX AS AN ATHLETE'S VILLAGE FOR THE  
COMPETITORS IN THE 2003 PAN-AMERICAN GAMES, IF THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC WINS THE RIGHT TO HOST THE GAMES. THE ORGANIZING  
COMMITTEE COULD SLASH ITS TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, PENA SAID,  
BECAUSE MOST COMPETITORS WOULD BE ABLE TO WALK FROM THE  
TOWERS TO NEAR-BY COMPETITION SITES.

13. (C) MOST AUDACIOUS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IMPOSE THE  
PROJECT ON THE TWO FOUNDATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE  
PLAZA, PENA RECENTLY TOLD THE PRESS, BUT HE CALLED IT

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"BENEFICIAL FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY," AND SAID IT WOULD BRING STABILITY TO THE PLAZA PROJECT BY RAISING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. "WE WILL LEND GREAT SUPPORT TO A MORE DYNAMIC ECONOMY." PENA, A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER BY TRADE, HAS REPORTEDLY DEFENDED PREFERRING PUBLIC-SECTOR BUYERS BY SAYING THAT EVERY GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE OPTION AND PREROGATIVE TO HELP ITS OFFICIALS ESTABLISH THEMSELVES



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IN THE HOUSING MARKET. HE HAS CALLED THE PROPOSED TOWERS  
"22-STORY SCULPTURES," AND HAS SAID THAT "THIS WILL BE THE  
OBLIGATORY SITE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO VISIT TO SEE THE 'LITTLE  
NEW YORK' THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS PROMISED TO BUILD."

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