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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	CTME-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOTE-00	ANHR-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	ITC-01	LOC-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00
	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	USIE-00	SA-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/018W

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O 301116Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8036
INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL
COMCOGARD GANTSEC SAN JUAN PR
DEA HQS WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
DIA WASHINGTON DC
DIRFBI WASHDC
DIR ONDCP WASHINGTON DC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL//POLAD//
ALCOHOL TOBACCO FIREARMS WASHINGTON DC
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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA, USOAS, INL, INR, IO, DRL, H, DR
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
ATF PLEASE PASS ATF MIAMI FOR SA W NEWELL

E.O. 12958: DECLASSIFY AUGUST 16, 2004
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, PGOV, PREL, KIPR, SOCI, DR
SUBJECT: DOMINICAN HIGHLIGHTS: MAY 19 - MAY 26, 2000

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POWER PROBLEMS

1. (C) REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S-OWNED ELECTRIC POWER AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES ARE EXPERIENCING CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS (IPP'S) HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET THE DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES TO FINALIZE THE AGREEMENT REACHED LAST YEAR TO ADDRESS APPROXIMATELY 70 MILLION DOLLARS IN OVERDUE PAYMENTS. THEY SAY THEY MAY BE FORCED TO SHUT DOWN IF A SOLUTION IS NOT REACHED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

2. (U) ONE OF THE LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES, OWNED BY US-BASED AES, HAS TOLD US IT WILL STOP SUPPLYING POWER TO THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT DUE TO ACCUMULATED
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DEBTS BELIEVED TO EXCEED US \$30 MILLION.

MANY GOING HUNGRY

3. (U) THE LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE, FRANCISCO ARIAS, ESTIMATED THAT 26 PERCENT OF THE DOMINICAN POPULATION GOES TO BED HUNGRY EACH NIGHT, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO LOW DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS. HE NOTED THAT THE COUNTRY IMPORTS MORE THAN FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ITS FOOD SUPPLY, WELL ABOVE THE AVERAGE FOR LATIN AMERICA.

CASES OF NARCISO AND ORLANDO: JUSTICE DEFERRED

4. (U) ON THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST PUBLIC SIGHTING OF LEFT-WING JOURNALIST NARCISO GONZALEZ (POPULARLY KNOWN AS "NARCISAZO"), THE CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE AND PRESUMED DEATH STILL LACKS DEFENDANTS. DESPITE URGINGS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JORGE SUBERO ISA TO SPEED UP THE PROCEEDINGS, THE CASE REMAINS HUNG UP AT THE INVESTIGATION STAGE WITH THE EXAMINING MAGISTRATE.

5. (U) MEANWHILE, THE PROSECUTION OF THE ALLEGED MURDERERS OF ORLANDO MARTINEZ HOWLEY - THE OTHER BEST-

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KNOWN LEFTIST JOURNALIST TO MEET WITH FOUL PLAY DURING
THE ERA OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER - IS
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SUSPENDED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. IN 1999, A LOWER
COURT JUDGE RULED THAT THE JUDICIAL PROCESS BY WHICH A
GROUP OF RETIRED MILITARY MEN AND CIVILIANS WERE
BROUGHT TO TRIAL WAS FAULTY. PROSECUTORS APPEALED AND
ON MARCH 19, 2000, THE COURT OF APPEALS ISSUED A
JUDGMENT NULLIFYING THAT DECISION. BUT SINCE THE
ACTUAL OPINION FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS YET TO BE
SENT TO THE TRIAL COURT, MATTERS CANNOT YET PROCEED.

6. (U) THE APPELLATE COURT PROBABLY DESERVES SOME
UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, SINCE UNDER THE DOMINICAN
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM VIRTUALLY EVERY CRIMINAL
CONVICTION IS APPEALED AS OF RIGHT. IN THE CASE OF THE
NATIONAL DISTRICT, THE SAME FIVE JUDGES, IN PANELS OF
THREE, ARE HEARING APPEALS FROM LITERALLY TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF CONVICTIONS.

ACCUSE POLICE COLONELS OF BEATING FEMALE PRISONERS

7. (U) AMID PRESSURES FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL CESAR PINA
TORIBIO AND SANTO DOMINGO ARCHBISHOP NICOLAS DE JESUS
CARDINAL LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ, A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SANTO DOMINGO 002082

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THE ALLEGED BEATING OF WOMEN INCARCERATED IN RAFEY
PRISON IN SANTIAGO HAS FOUND CAUSE TO ACCUSE ONE FULL
COLONEL AND ONE LIEUTENANT COLONEL OF THE ABUSES. BOTH
OFFICERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE
COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT SIGNS OF BEATING WERE
EVIDENT ON SIX WOMEN (OF TWELVE WHO COMPLAINED). THE
COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THE COLONELS BE RELIEVED
OF DUTY AND HELD IN THE PAVILION FOR SUPERIOR OFFICERS
AT CAMP JUAN PABLO DUARTE PENDING A TRIAL BEFORE A
POLICE TRIBUNAL. THE PRISONERS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN
BEATEN WITH ALUMINUM AND WOODEN BATS FOR HAVING BATHED
THEMSELVES OUTSIDE DURING A CLOUDBURST.

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY

8. (U) MEMBERS OF A SAN JOSE DE OCOA ONION GROWERS

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COOPERATIVE HAVE CHARGED THAT THEY STAND TO LOSE
52,500,000 DOMINICAN PESOS, ABOUT 3.3 MILLION DOLLARS,
BECAUSE THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAS RENEGED ON ITS
PROMISE TO BUY 3.9 MILLION KILOGRAMS OF THEIR PRODUCT,
THE SANTO DOMINGO DAILY "HOY" HAS REPORTED. SAN JOSE
DE OCOA IS A MUNICIPALITY IN PERAVIA PROVINCE. LAST
MONTH, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, THE GOVERNMENT-RUN INSTITUTE
FOR PRICE STABILIZATION (INESPRE) ALLEGEDLY MADE THE
COMMITMENT TO THE FARMERS. SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE
ELECTION INESPRE DID PURCHASE FIVE PER CENT OF THE
AMOUNT AGREED UPON. NOW FARMERS SAY THAT THE PURCHASES
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BECAUSE "THEY DO NOT WANT TO TURN
INESPRE OVER [TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT-
ELECT HIPOLITO MEJIA] WITH A REALLY HIGH DEBT." THE
COOPERATIVE'S ADMINISTRATOR CESAR PASCUAL MENDEZ
CUEVAS, IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE ASK OURSELVES WHY
EVERY FOUR YEARS THE POLITICIANS FILL US WITH PROMISES
THAT THEY DO NOT KEEP OR THAT ARE BROKEN EVERY TIME A
NEW GOVERNMENT COMES TO POWER?"

A PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

9. (U) THE DOMINICAN PRESS GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO A MAY 24
PRIVATE LUNCH AT THE NATIONAL PALACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT
LEONEL FERNANDEZ REYNA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT HIPOLITO
MEJIA. A NUMBER OF SANTO DOMINGO DAILIES CHARACTERIZED
THE EVENT AS THE FORMAL START OF THE TRANSITION. MEJIA
IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE ON AUGUST 16. BOTH MEJIA
AND FERNANDEZ CALLED THE MEETING PRODUCTIVE AND

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CORDIAL, BUT OTHERWISE KEPT THEIR OWN COUNSEL.
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN BOY FRIENDS AND GIRL FRIENDS, LIKE
THOSE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS, SHOULD REMAIN PRIVATE, MEJIA
TOLD THE PRESS.

MANATT

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