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PAGE 01 SANTO 05184 01 OF 03 102059Z
 ACTION ARA-01

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	ANHR-01	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-06	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00
	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00	SNIS-00
	NISC-02	PMB-00	DSCC-00	SSAH-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	PRMC-01
	DRL-09	G-01	/063W				

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P 102056Z JUN 94
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8674
 INFO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
 CINCUSACOM NORFOLK VA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTO DOMINGO 005184

DEPT FOR ARA/CAR, ARA/PPC, AND DRL/BA
 MOSCOW FOR POL - TONY ARIAS
 JUSTICE FOR DAG/ICITAP - D. KRISKOVICH

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, KJUS, ELAB, PINS, DR
 SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP ON PRD DETENTIONS, ARREST OF UNION
 OFFICIALS, DISAPPEARANCE OF UNIVERSITY
 PROFESSOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANTO 05184 01 OF 03 102059Z

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO 4691
 B) SANTO DOMINGO 4590
 C) SANTO DOMINGO 4740 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY

2. (C/NF) A DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD)
 POLITICIAN/LABOR LEADER BELIEVES THAT DETENTIONS OF PRD
 ACTIVISTS BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE DIMINISHED AND
 MOST OF THE DETAINEES RELEASED. HOWEVER, THE PRD

POLITICIAN FEARS THAT THE DETENTIONS WILL RESUME SHORTLY AS THE PRD CONTINUES ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ELECTORAL FRAUD. ANOTHER PRD SOURCE AND THE DOMINICAN MEDIA REPORT THAT ISOLATED DETENTIONS OF PRD ACTIVISTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR IN VARIOUS PROVINCES.

3. (S/NF) SEVERAL LEADERS FROM THE DOMINICAN TEACHERS UNION WERE DETAINED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AS ALLEGED SUSPECTS IN A RASH OF BOMBINGS IN VALVERDE PROVINCE. THE BOMBINGS ARE MORE LIKELY THE WORK OF "POPULIST" ORGANIZATIONS; THE SECURITY SERVICES MAY HAVE EVIDENCE OF TIES BETWEEN THE TEACHERS UNION AND THESE GROUPS OR MAY BE REACTING TO PROTESTS BY TARGETING THE PRD AND ITS ALLIES. PUBLIC CLAMOR IS GROWING OVER THE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE OF A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WHO HAS RECENTLY ENGAGED IN STRONG PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND OTHER POWERFUL FIGURES. GODR CRITICS FEAR THAT THE PROFESSOR MAY BE A VICTIM OF FOUL PLAY BECAUSE OF THE CRITICISMS; NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT THIS PREMISE. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANTO 05184 01 OF 03 102059Z

DIFFERING OPINIONS ON DETENTION OF PRD MEMBERS

4. (C/NF) DURING A MAY 31 MEETING WITH A PRD LABOR LEADER/CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE TO DISCUSS THE POST-ELECTORAL POLITICAL SITUATION, LABOFF RAISED THE ISSUE OF REPORTED DETENTIONS OF PRD ACTIVISTS (REFS A AND B). WHILE NOTING THAT HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE, THE LABOR LEADER OPINED THAT RECENT DETENTIONS OF PRD ACTIVISTS HAVE DIMINISHED AND NOTED THAT MOST OF THOSE DETAINED HAD SINCE BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DETENTIONS WOULD AGAIN PICK UP AS THE PRD CONTINUED ITS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND HE SPECULATED THAT SUCH AN UPSWING WOULD OCCUR DURING A WEEKEND PERIOD. (NOTE: HE PROVIDED NO EVIDENCE FOR HIS CONCERN THAT THERE MAY BE INCREASED DETENTIONS.)

5. (C/NF) A HUSBAND-WIFE TEAM (ECONOMIST AND DOCTOR) OF PRD ACTIVISTS EXPRESSED A MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEW DURING A JUNE 3 MEETING WITH LABOFF TO DISCUSS ELECTORAL FRAUD (SEPTTEL). THIS COUPLE CLAIMED THAT DETENTIONS WERE CONTINUING TO OCCUR, ALBEIT AT A REDUCED LEVEL AND WITH LESS PUBLIC NOTICE. THEY

SINGLED OUT THE POOR SUBURBS OF SANTO DOMINGO AND PROVINCES WITH ELECTORAL DISPUTES AS THE MAIN ARENAS FOR THESE ACTIONS. THEY DID AGREE THAT MOST OF THE DETAINEES HAVE BEEN HELD FOR ONLY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME.

6. (LOU) AS IF TO CONFIRM THE PRD ACTIVISTS' FEARS,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SANTO 05184 01 OF 03 102059Z
WEEKEND EDITIONS OF THE SANTO DOMINGO DAILY "EL SIGLO" CARRIED TWO REPORTS OF JUNE 3 DETENTIONS OF PRD ACTIVISTS IN VALVERDE AND SANCHEZ RAMIREZ PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO THE NEWS REPORTS, THE VALVERDE PROVINCE INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN POLICE ARRESTED THE PRD MAYORAL CANDIDATE IN LAGUNA SALADA FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN TIRE BURNING PROTESTS IN THAT TOWN. DURING THE PRD CANDIDATE'S EIGHT HOUR DETENTION IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF MAO, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR (FROM THE RULING PRSC PARTY) AS WELL AS PRD ACTIVISTS REQUESTED HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL, WHICH HAPPENED AFTER A POLICE INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHED NO LINKS BETWEEN THE CANDIDATE AND THE DISTURBANCES.

7. (U) THE INCIDENTS IN SANCHEZ RAMIREZ PROVINCE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED THE ARREST OF THE PRD MAYORAL CANDIDATE IN FANTINO FOR ALLEGEDLY MAKING THREATS AGAINST POLICE GUARDS AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JME). A FORMER PRD CONGRESSMAN'S RESIDENCE IN FANTINO WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY RAIDED BY POLICE ON JUNE 3 AND A PISTOL SEIZED (FOR WHICH THE EX-CONGRESSMAN HAD A LEGAL PERMIT). FINALLY, A PRD CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE AND ONE OTHER ACTIVIST WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED JUNE 3 IN FRONT OF THE JME IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF COTUI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTO 05184 02 OF 03 102100Z
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SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SANTO 05184 02 OF 03 102100Z
UNION OFFICIALS DETAINED AFTER VALVERDE BOMBINGS

8. (U) IN THE VALVERDE PROVINCE TOWN OF ESPERANZA,
FOUR OFFICIALS OF THE DOMINICAN TEACHERS UNION (ADP)
WERE DETAINED MAY 27 BY DOMINICAN ARMY G-2 AND NATIONAL
POLICE SECRET SERVICE PERSONNEL AS SUSPECTS IN A SERIES
OF MAY 27 BOMBINGS IN ESPERANZA (REF C). 10 OTHER
PERSONS DETAINED FOR INVESTIGATION WERE IMMEDIATELY

9. (C) ADP SECRETARY OF EDUCATION HILARIO JACQUEZ TOLD LABOFF JUNE 3 THAT THE ADP HAD SECURED THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR UNION OFFICIALS ON MAY 31. JACQUEZ MAINTAINED THAT THE DETENTION OF THE UNION OFFICIALS WAS NOT RELATED TO AN ONGOING LABOR CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ADP AND THE DOMINICAN SECRETARIAT OF EDUCATION, BUT RATHER WAS DUE TO THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICIALS.

10. (S/NF) COMMENT: THE EXPLOSION OF PIPE BOMBS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ESPERANZA MAY BE LINKED TO THE COLLECTIVE OF POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS (COP) AS SUCH ACTIONS ARE A TYPICAL COP TACTIC. COP'S MODUS OPERANDI IS TO EXPLOIT LOCAL GRIEVANCES TO GENERATE VIOLENT BUT LOCALIZED PROTESTS; ANGER OVER ELECTORAL FRAUD IS APPARENTLY THE LATEST ISSUE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COP. THE PRD HAS DELIBERATELY KEPT ITS DISTANCE FROM COP AND OTHER POPULIST ORGANIZATIONS. IF THE PRD ELECTS TO EMPLOY STREET PROTESTS IN THE FUTURE, COP AND SIMILAR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANTO 05184 02 OF 03 102100Z
GROUPS WILL LIKELY ATTEMPT TO STAGE VIOLENT ACTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SUCH PROTESTS.

11. (S/NF) COMMENT CONTINUED: WHILE THE ADP HAS TRADITIONALLY EMBRACED LEFTIST POLITICS, THE UNION HAS NO HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENT PROTESTS. THUS WE FIND THE DETENTION OF THE ADP OFFICIALS TO BE PUZZLING. IT APPEARS THAT EITHER THE SECURITY SERVICES HAVE DETECTED NEW LINKS BETWEEN ADP AND GROUPS SUCH AS COP, OR THE GOVERNMENT IS REFLEXIVELY REACTING TO PROTESTS BY GOING AFTER THE PRD AND ITS PERCEIVED SUPPORTERS.
END COMMENT.

DISAPPEARANCE OF UASD PROFESSOR

12. (U) THE MAY 26 DISAPPEARANCE OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UASD) PROFESSOR NARCISO GONZALEZ (NARCIZASO) HAS GENERATED INCREASING MEDIA COVERAGE AND EMPHATIC GODR DENIALS THAT HE HAS BEEN, OR IS BEING, DETAINED BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. THE NATIONAL POLICE ANNOUNCED JUNE 1 THAT POLICE CHIEF MAJOR

GUERRERO PERALTA HAD INSTRUCTED ALL INVESTIGATIVE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS AND PROVINCIAL COMMANDERS TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO LOCATE GONZALEZ. GUERRERO ALSO DENIED RUMORS THAT THE POLICE WERE HOLDING GONZALEZ. DURING A JUNE 3 VIGIL CEREMONY AT THE UASD, RECTOR ROBERTO SANTANA CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE WHEREABOUTS OF GONZALEZ. FINALLY, ON JUNE 6, ARMED FORCES SECRETARY LIEUTENANT GENERAL MATOS VILLANUEVA DENIED THAT GONZALEZ HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE MILITARY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SANTO 05184 02 OF 03 102100Z
AND WAS BEING HELD AT ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS AS CHARGED BY GONZALEZ' WIFE DURING THE JUNE 5 PRESENTATION OF THE POPULAR TV PROGRAM "GORDO DE LA SEMANA."

13. (LOU) A JUNE 6 MEDIA REPORT MENTIONED THAT GONZALEZ HAD WRITTEN A PRE-ELECTION ARTICLE CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER WHICH APPEARED IN THE POPULIST MAGAZINE "LA MURALLA." THE ARTICLE, WHICH HAS NOT YET SURFACED IN THE REGULAR MEDIA, IS ENTITLED "10 PROOFS WHY BALAGUER IS THE MOST PERVERSE TO HAVE ARISEN IN AMERICA." THE ARTICLE REFERS TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER AS AN ASSASSIN, GANGSTER, IMMORAL, CRIMINAL, CORRUPTOR, SERVILE, TRICKSTER, DESTRUCTIVE, MISERABLE, AND A SWINDLER. THE ARTICLE ALSO REPEATS LONG-STANDING CHARGES THAT RAMON PEREZ MARTINEZ (MACORIS) WAS THE LEADER OF A DEATH SQUAD (LA BANDA) IN THE EARLY 1970'S AND NAMES (MANUEL) GUAROA LIRANZO, ANIBAL PAEZ, (JUAN JOSE) ARTEAGA, AND (RAFAEL) BELLO ANDINO AS MEMBERS OF A CRIMINAL CIRCLE SURROUNDING BALAGUER. GONZALEZ ALSO ATTACKED BALAGUER IN A SPEECH AT THE UASD THE MORNING OF MAY 26, HIS LAST PUBLIC COMMENTS BEFORE HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

14. (C) COMMENT: THE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER GONZALEZ'

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SECRET

PAGE 02 SANTO 05184 03 OF 03 102100Z
DISAPPEARANCE STEMS FROM A READINESS OF SOME DOMINICANS
TO BELIEVE THE WORST, I.E. THAT GONZALEZ WAS "PUNISHED"
BECAUSE HE STEPPED OVER A LINE IN HIS CRITICISM OF
PRESIDENT BALAGUER. THE TRUJILLO LEGACY LIVES ON IN
THE DR IN THAT FEW PERSONS ARE WILLING TO PUBLICLY
ENGAGE IN PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT OR OTHER
POWERFUL PERSONS FOR FEAR OF POSSIBLE RETALIATION.

GONZALEZ, A LONG-TIME LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL AND CRITIC (WHO HAS LIKELY MADE MANY ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS), IS APPARENTLY ONE OF THE ONLY COMMENTATORS IN THE COUNTRY WHO IS UNABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE MAINSTREAM PRESS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF HIS PENCHANT FOR NAMING POWERFUL PERSONS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN CORRUPT ACTIVITIES.

15. (C/NF) COMMENT CONTINUED: THAT SAID, THE "FRIENDS OF NARCISAZO" HAVE PRESENTED NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GONZALEZ INVOLVES FOUL PLAY WITH POLITICAL MOTIVES, OR INCLUDES THE INVOLVEMENT OF GOD AUTHORITIES. WHILE GONZALZ WAS APPARENTLY TAKING MEDICATION FOR EPILEPSY, WE AGREE WITH THE PRESUMPTON THAT HIS BODY WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IF HE DIED FROM A STROKE OR OTHER MEDICAL ACCIDENT. UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE, WE ALSO DISCOUNT THE RUMORS OF HIS DETENTION BY GODR AUTHORITIES BECAUSE SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO ESCAPE NOTICE GIVEN THE INABILITY TO KEEP SECRETS IN THE DR. WHATEVER THE REASON FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE, THE GODR WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO PROVIDE A CREDIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCIDENT ONCE GONZALEZ IS FINALLY LOCATED.
PASTORINO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SANTO 05184 03 OF 03 102100Z

SECRET

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