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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO AMIAMA RESIGNATION

1. LATEST ISSUE AHORA MAGAZINE ON SALE APRIL 21 FEAURED LONG HIGHLY SPECULATIVE STORY CONSTRUCTED AROUND CENTRAL CONCEP AMIAMA WOULD SOON RESIGN BECAUSE "OBSTACLES" TO HIS INVESTIGATION HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY, LET ALONE APPREHEND ASSAILANTS, NOWITHSTANDING ZEAL WITH WHICH HE PURSUING INVESTIGATION. AMIAMA TOLD REPORTERS WHO QUERIED HIM ON STORY LATER APRIL 21 THAT HE DID NOT PLAN RESIGN, AND THAT INVESTIGATION WAS CONTINUING. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT "FORCES WHICH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONTROL" EXIST IN COUNTRY, THAT SUCH FORCES KNOW NO OTHER WAY OF OPERATING THAN THROUGH VIOLENCE OF KIND PERPETRATED ON IMBERT, AND THAT IN VIEW OF THIS HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE "VERY DIFFICULT" TO GATHER PROOF SUFFICIENT TO BRING ASSAILANTS TO JUSTICE. BOTH

PAGE TWO RUESSD 860S C O N F I D E N T I A L
EL CARIBE AND EL NACIONAL PROMINENTLY FRONT-PAGED THESE STATEMENTS. LISTIN BURIED THEM ON PAGE 13.

2. IN EDITORIAL NEXT DAY, NACIONAL SAID SUCH "FORCES" MUST BE EITHER DOMINICAN OR FOREIGN AND URGED AMIAM CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEM SO THAT, IF DOMINICAN, FULL WEIGHT OF LAW COULD BE APPLIED TO THEM AND, IF FOREIGN, IMMEDIATE STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO REGAIN CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT'S FULL AUTHORITY OVER NATION. ON 23RD CARIBE REPORTER QUERIED ARMED FORCES SECRETARY PEREZ Y PEREZ ON EXISTENCE SUCH "FORCES," AND ON 24TH CARIBE BLEW PEREZ' BRIEF TWO SENTENCE ANSWER INTO 4-COLUMN FRONT-PAGE STORY WHICH NO OTHER PAPER CARRIED. PEREZ SAID GOVERNMENT WAS IN FULL CONTROL OF NATION AND THAT REFERENCE TO SUCH "FORCES" WAS "EXAGGERATION" ON PART AMIAMA. (THIS WAS, IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, TANTAMOUNT TO CALLING AMIAMA A LIAR).

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3. ALSO ON 23RD, AGRICULTURE SECRETARY (AND BALAGUER FAVORITE) FERNANDO ALVAREZ TOLD AMBASSADOR BALAGUER HAD BEEN SO ANGERED BY AMIAMA STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT SPOKE OPENLY AND HEATEDLY (TO ALVAREZ) OF FIRING AMIAMA ON GROUNDS HE PATENTLY PLAYING POLITICS WHILE NEGLECTING INVESTIGATION. (AMIAMA'S REMARKS MUST HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY GALLING TO PRESIDENT, WHO HAD JUST

ACCEDED TO ANOTHER AMIAMA REQUEST BY ACQUIESCING IN TRANSFER OF FORMER POLICE CHIEF TEJEDA ALVAREZ' BROTHER FROM HIS JOB AS CHIEF OF PERSONNEL IN POLICE.)

4. MEANWHILE, NACIONAL ON 21ST HAD ALSO INTERVIEWED IMBERT, WHO SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE AMIAMA SHOULD RESIGN "UNLESS HE CONFRONTED WITH INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES."

5. COMMENT: A. IN COMMENT TO PRESS YESTERDAY, (PUBLISHED WITH RESIGNATION STORY THIS MORNING), AMIAMA CLEARLY INDICATED WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN REAL REASON FOR HIS RESIGNATION. REFERRING TO PEREZ Y PEREZ' STATEMENT, AMIAMA SAID HE HAD BEEN "MUCH STRUCK BY FACT THAT PEREZ, SO AGGRESSIVE IN MY CASE, HAS IN NO INSTANCE SAID PRESIDENT HAS EXAGGERATED ON THOSE OCCASIONS ON WHICH LATTER HAS SPOKEN OF FORCES GOVT DOES NOT CONTROL. IN ANY EVENT, THIS RESULTS FROM INTERPRETATION PEREZ GIVES WORDS OF PRESIDENT AND THOSE OF LUIS AMIAMA TIO. I DO NOT WISH BELIEVE THAT OUR CONTRY'S SECRETARY OF ARMED FORCES IGNORES TRUE MEANING OF WORD 'FORCES.' IF TO HIM ONLY FORCES THAT EXIST ARE MILITARY ONES, WHAT CAN WE DO?"

B. PEREZ' STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY INTOLERABLE TO MAN OF AMIAMA'S VANITY AND SENSITIVITY, AND MAY WELL HAVE MADE IT

IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM CONTINUE SIT ON INVESTIGATING COMMISSION WITH PEREZ WITHOUT, IN HIS VIEW, AS HE HAS PRIVATELY STATED MANY TIMES, BEING MADE RIDICULOUS.

C. ON OTHER HAND, IT QUITE POSSIBLE AMIAMA USED PEREZ' STATEMENT AS CONVENIENT PEG TO HIS RESIGNATION. IF, FOR INSTANCE, HE HAD RECEIVED WORD OR SUSPECTED PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING FIRE HIM (WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS ACTUALLY IN PRESIDENT'S MIND), AMIAMA WOULD OF COURSE HAVE HAD TO MOVE FAST TO RETAIN INITIATIVE AND TO CONTINUE BE ABLE CHARGE HE FAILED BECAUSE OF BUILT-IN OBSTACLES TO HIS INVESTIGATION.

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D. IN INTERESTING ASIDE, LISTIN DIARIO REPORTED AMIAMA'S REJOINDER TO PEREZ WITH OBSERVATION THAT SO FAR AS IT AWARE THIS IS FIRST TIME IN RECENT DOMINICAN HISTORY THAT A SECRETARY OF ARMED FORCES HAS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC DEBATE WITH A SECRETARY OF INTERIOR.

E. THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO INDICATION THAT AMIAMA'S RESIGNATION HAS AFFECTED OR WILL SOON AFFECT POSITION OF HIS BROTHER, WHO FOREIGN SECRETARY. WE UNDERSTAND AMIAMA HAS ALREADY RETURNED TO HIS FARM TO SIT THINGS OUT.

GP3. CRIMMINS
BT

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