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POL 12 DOM REP 44

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ACTION ARA 15

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, L 03, INR 07, P 04, CIA 04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4069
INFO AMCON SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS 554

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1074

SUBJ: CONTROVERSY OVER PRD MEETING WITH MILITARY OFFICERS

REF: SD- 1057 pol 18-1 DR
pol 15 DR
XR pol 12 DR
XR DEF 9 DR

1. CONTINUING CONTROVERSY HAS SURROUNDED MEETINGS REPORTED REFTEL. EL NACIONAL NOV 9 REBUTTED PENA GOMEZ AND PRD'S DENIALS OF ITS REPORT GODR HAD OFFERED WEAPONS, ESCORTS AND JOBS TO PRD LEADERS, CHARGED PRD WITH ENGAGING IN TRADITIONAL DOM POLITICAL TRICKERY AND WITH ATTEMPTING DIVIDE ARMED FORCES. PAPER CARRIED FULL PAGE PENA GOMEZ REBUTTAL OF ITS REBUTTAL ON NOV 12, IN WHICH PENA GOMEZ STATED INTER ALIA THAT: (A) HE HAD NOT MET WITH COLONELS NIVAR SEIJAS OR CHECO; (B) IT TRUE HE AND CASIMIRO CASTRO WERE INVITED (HE DID NOT SAY BY WHOM) TO MEET WITH COL TEJEDA ALVAREZ, WHO LIMITED HIMSELF TO OFFERING PRD GUARANTEES; (C) IT TRUE PRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RATIFIED PARTY POSITION OF NOT

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ACCEPTING GOVT JOBS, BUT THIS STEMMED FROM "RUMORS AND VAGUE OFFERS" RATHER THAN FROM "OFFICIAL PROPOSAL" FROM PRES:

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(D) IT TRUE NIVAR SEIJAS SPOKE BRIEFLY ON ANOTHER OCCASION WITH CASIMIRO CASTRO WHEN THEY MET ACCIDENTALLY AT HOME OF MUTUAL FRIENDS STATED "NO ONE PLANNED THIS ACCIDENTAL INTERVIEW". PENA GOMEZ ALSO REAFFIRMED PRD'S RESPECT FOR NACIONAL BUT REITERATED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH PUBLICATION OF NEWS THAT MAY "ENDANGER PEACE OF COUNTRY AND PERSONAL SECURITY OF THOSE AFFECTED" BY SUCH NEWS. NACIONAL HAD DONE THIS, PENA GOMEZ SAID, IN STATING BALAGUERISTA MILITARY HAD DISCUSSED WESSIN WITH PRD. AMONG POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES SUCH NEWS, PENA GOMEZ SPECULATED, ARMED FORCES SEC PEREZ Y PEREZ COULD DEMAND NIVAR'S DESTITUTION WHILE LATTER, FEELING SELF UNJUSTLY AGGRIEVED, COULD RESIST, THEREBY POSSIBLY "CREATING CONDITIONS FOR ACTS SUSCEPTIBLE OF BREAKING PEACE". PENA GOMEZ ACKNOWLEDGED PQD HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN TALK, BUT STATED ISSUE WAS RAISED BY PRD IN CONTEXT ITS COMPLAINT THAT PQD ENJOYING MORE FREEDOM OF ACTION THAN PRD.

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2. ON OTHER SIDE, TEJEDA ALVAREZ TOLD PRESS NOV 10 HE HAD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS INSPECTOR AT SERVICE OF PRES, BEEN REQUESTED BY PENA GOMEZ AND CASIMIRO TO COMMUNICATE TO PRES THEIR HOPE FOR EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES. SAID NOTHING ELSE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND THAT NO OTHER MILITARY OFFICER HAD PARTICIPATED THAT MEETING.

3. PEREZ Y PEREZ INDICATED TO EL CARIBE SAME DAY THAT HE DID NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF MEETINGS OR WHO HAD BEEN INVOLVED AND REFERRED REPORTED TO PRES FOR INFORMATION. HE ALSO STATED THAT ANY MILITARY OFFICER WHO PARTICIPATES IN POLITICAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE CANCELLED UNLESS THEY HAD PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PRES TO DO SO.

4. LISTIN DIARIO NOV 13 REPORTED BALAGUER HAD INDICATED TO PAPER DAY BEFORE THAT HE DID NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF PRD MILITARY MEETING AND HE HAD DENIED (TO REPORTED) THAT HE HAD COMMISSIONED ANY AIDE, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, TO DEAL WITH PRD. PAPER ADDED THAT PERS HAD SAID THAT HE ALONE WAS IN CHARGE OF SUCH AFFAIRS, CITING HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH

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PRD LEGISLATORS AS EXAMPLES OF HIS ACITIVTY IN THIS REGARD.

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5. NACIONAL NOV 13 KEPT ISSUE HOT BY REPORTING THAT PEREZ Y PEREZ HAD VISITED BALAGUER THAT MORNING, ALLEGING THAT PEREZ USUALLY VISITS PALACE "ONLY" FOR REGULAR MILITARY CHIEFS' MEETING WITH PRES ON FRIDAYS, AND REPORTING THAT PEREZ HAD "NOT WISHED SPECIFY" (TO ITS REPORTED) WHETHER OR NOT TEJEDA WOULD BE CANCELLED. STORY MADE NO MENTION OF NIVAR. (PEREZ WAS AT PALACE FOR AID/PSD BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT).

5. COMMENT: A. TEJEDA HAD LAST WEEK INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT, EHILE HE HAD NOT HAD PRES'S SPECIFIC APPROVAL FOR MEETINGS, HE BELIEVED HE HAD ACTED WITH BALAGUER'S TACIT ACQUIESCENCE (A) BECAUSE OF HIS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRES'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (SINCE LAST MAY 4) IN DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS OF OPPOSITION, AN (B) BECAUSE ALTHOUGH PRES HAD NOT COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON TEJEDA'S REPORTS OF MEETINGS, NEITHER HAD HE COMMENTED NEGATIVELY. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, NIVAR TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD ATTENDED TWO MEETINGS, ONE ENTIRELY BY ACCIDENT (LATTER ALLEGATION APPEARS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY PENA GOMEZ' REMARKS ABOVE). AS TO OTHER MEETING IN WHICH NIVAR PARTICIPATED, PPDC PRES RAMON CASTILLO TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT NIVAR HAD TOLD HIM HE HAD HAD PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE. PRES'S REMARKS AS REPORTED BY LISTIN WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE TO HAVE UNDERCUT POSITIONS OF BOTH TEJEDA AND NIVAR AS MADE KNOWN TO THEM BY EMBASSY. IT APPEARS ON WAY TO BECOMING IMBROGLIO OF SOME PROPORTION. B. FOR ISSUE'S REPORTED EFFECT ON PEREZ Y PEREZ AND POSSIBLY OTHER ELEMENTS OF MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, SEE HDC-3834, 3835, AND 3836--SECRET/NOFORN.

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