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FROM BUNKER

COMMITTEE'S MEETING WITH CAAMANO GROUP THIS AFTERNOON BROUGHT NEGOTIATIONS DOWN TO WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GUT ISSUE HERE: MAKEUP OF ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND. WE CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT OTHER PROBLEMS COULD BE HANDLED. OBJECTIONS TO ARTICLE 4 MIGHT WELL BE WORKED OUT THROUGH MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR PROTOCOL RE PROCEDURES FOR DISMANTLING AND DISARMING CONSTITUTIONALIST ZONE. ALSO, IN OUR OPINION, ARTICLE 8 DIFFICULTIES (I.E. FUTURE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF CONSTITUTIONALIST MILITARY) ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO TREATMENT THROUGH SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE

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FORMULA, PERHAPS INVOLVING A SPECIAL BOARD TO REVIEW INDIVIDUAL CASES OF OFFICERS INVOLVED. ARTICLE 10 WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED.

ON OTHER HAND, IT IS DIFFICULT SEE WHERE IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF ARMED FORCES' LEADERSHIP MIGHT LIE. CAAMANO'S GROUP MADE THE POINT VERY CLEARLY. (UP TO NOW THEY HAVE BEEN AVOIDING ISSUE BUT OUR PROPOSAL AND PUBLIC DECLARATION HAS FORCED IT INTO OPEN.) ARISTY AND JORGE BLANCO INSISTED THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE INSTALLED WITH RIVERS, DE LOS SANTOS, MARTINEZ ARANA AND WESSIN STILL AT THEIR POSTS. I POINTED OUT THAT CONSTITUTIONALISTS HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED LEAVE ALL SUCH MATTERS TO PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT AND SAID THAT GARCIA GODOY, WHO IS FULLY AWARE OF PROBLEM, COULD BE TRUSTED TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. THEY, HOWEVER, FIRMLY MAINTAINED THEIR POSITION.

TONIGHT WE AGAIN DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH GARCIA GODOY. HE IS MOST RELUCTANT GO AHEAD WITHOUT AT LEAST MINIMAL AGREEMENT ON

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-2- 416, AUGUST 11, FROM SANTO DOMINGO

PART OR REBELS. DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD FUNCTION (OR EVEN BE FORMED, GIVEN TIMIDITY OF HIS POTENTIAL COLLEAGUES) WITHOUT REBEL ACCEPTANCE. HE ALSO SHARES OUR IMPRESSION THAT IMBERT IS ONLY PREPARED TO SIGN "ACT OF RE-

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CONCILIATION" IF OTHER SIDE ALSO SIGNS AND IF FOUR POINTS PUT FORWARD BY ARMED FORCES (EMBTCL 405) ARE EXPLICITLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE BINDING. NEVERTHELESS, GARCIA GODOY DID SAY THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED GO AHEAD AND TAKE OFFICE WITHOUT FINAL AGREEMENT IF REBELS (AND PRESUMABLY ARMED FORCES) WOULD AGREE TO INSTALLATION UNDER SUCH CONDITION. HE URGED, HOWEVER, THAT WE FIRST MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT PERSUADE CAAMANO AND COMPANY ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL AS IT STANDS.

WE INTEND MAKE THIS EFFORT. FIRST STEP WILL BE PRIVATE APPROACH TO GUZMAN TOMORROW MORNING IN EFFORT USE HIM TO ENLIST BOSCH'S AID. EMPHASIS WILL BE ON FACT THAT THIS MAY WELL BE LAST CHANCE FOR WOLUTION FAVORABLE TO PRD ELECTORAL AMBITIONS AND THAT PARTY WILL ULTIMATELY LOSE IF ARISTY AND EXTREMISTS ARE ALLOWED CONTINUE INSIST ON IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS. GARCIA GODOY PLANS TALK TO JORGE BLANCO IN SAME VEIN. AFTER THESE SOUNDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE WE WILL DECIDE ON STRATEGY FOR NEXT MEETING WITH CAAMANO GROUP, PROBABLY TO TAKE PLACE TOMORROW AFTERNOON. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS WE GO ALONG.

RE SUGGESTIONS IN DEPTCL 216, I AGREE THAT WE MUST CONTINUE EFFORTS PERSUADE GARCIA GODOY TAKE OVER WITHOUT FIRM AGREEMENTS ON ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE

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WILL NOT ASSUME OFFICE SOLELY ON BASIS GNR ACCEPTANCE OF "ACT OF RECONCILIATION". IT ALSO CLEAR, IN MY OPINION, THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED-AT LEAST AT OUTSET-TO ACQUIESCE IN USE OF COERCIVE MEASURES SUCH AS SEALING OFF REBEL ZONE. I THINK BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT HE WOULD TAKE OVER ON BASIS SIMPLE AGREEMENT OF BOTH SIDES THAT HE DO SO, WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT TO CONTINUE THEREAFTER.

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TIME FRAME IS STILL DIFFICULT PREDICT BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY AT LEAST A FEW MORE DAYS WILL BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE OUR EFFORTS. WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF RISK THAT DELAY WILL GIVE IMBERT AN OPPORTUNITY BACK AWAY FROM HIS COMMITMENT. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT WITH SELF-SERVING POLITICIANS NOW RISING TO THE ATTACK, GARCIA GODOY'S CANDIDACY IS IN JEOPARDY. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE WE MUST CONTINUE ALONG LINE WE HAVE SET.

FOREGOING MAY BE REPEATED TO AMEMBASSY RIO AT DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION.

GP-2. BENNETT

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