

# INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO RUESOE/AMCONSUL SAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3325

1967 APR 29 PM 3 37

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS' RECENT CONVERSATIONS ON IMIAMA

1. FOLLOWING NOT CLEARED WITH AMBASSADOR PRIOR DEPARTURE.

2. DURING APRIL 25 LUNCHEON SCHEDULED BEFORE AMIAMA RESIGNED, HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATE ANDRESS FREITES GAVE AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON RESIGNATION.

A. FREITES SAID RESIGNATION WAS IN FACT MOTIVATED BY POINTS STATED IN AMIAMA'S LETTER (SD 3276) AND SAID PEREZ Y PEREZ' REMARKS (SD 3267) HAD NOT BEEN FACTOR. FREITES SAID NEITHER HE NOR AMIAMA'S BROTHER FERNANDO BELIEVED AMIAMA SHOULD HAVE RESIGNED, AND THAT AMIAMA HAD NOT WANTED SHOW HIS LETTER TO EITHER OF THEM FOR FEAR THEY MIGHT HAVE DISSUADED HIM. AMIAMA GAVE LETTER TO FERNANDO, HOWEVER, WHO DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT BEFORE COPIES WERE SENT TO PRESS. AFTER PRESENTING LETTER TO PRESIDENT, WHO READ IT NUMBER TIMES, FERNANDO HAD OFFERED RESIGN AS FOREIGN SECRETARY IF

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PRESIDENT SO WISHED. PRESIDENT SAID HE HARBORED NO SUCH WISH, THAT FERNANDO WAS DOING FINE WORK AND THAT HE FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT HE REMAIN IN JOB TO KEEP OPEN MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS CHANNEL BETWEEN AMIAMA AND HIMSELF. FERNANDO AGREED STAY ON AND FREITES SAID AMIAMA WAS IN PERFECT AGREEMENT WITH THIS SITUATION. FREITES SAID FERNANDO HAD NOT WANTED RESIGN AND HAD NOT BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS BROTHER TO DO SO.

B. RE AMIAMA'S TWO SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS (SD 3276, PARA 6) FREITES SAID THAT AMONG POLICE APPOINTMENTS PRESIDENT HAD APPROVED (AND TO WHICH AMIAMA SAID HE WOULD HAVE OBJECTED

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HAD HE BEEN PREVIOUSLY INFORMED OF THEM) WAS ONE REINCORPORATING INTO POLICE WITH RANK OF MAJOR FORMER POLICE COLONEL CARLOS RAFAEL HERRAND BLYDEN, WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF MOST FEARED AND BRUTAL OF TRUJILLO'S POLICE OFFICERS AND PARTICULARLY NOTORIOUS FOR HIS ACTIVITIES AT FORMER "LA CUARENTA" TORTURE CHAMBER. RE ALLEGED INSUBORDINATION OF POLICE CHIEF SOTO ECHAVARRIA, FREITES SAID BASIS FOR THIS CHARGE WAS SOTO'S REFUSAL SHOW AMIAMA REPORT TO PRESIDENT ALLEGING AMIAMA

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PLOTTING AGAINST ADMINISTRATION (CAS IS CONVINCED THIS REPORT WAS RANK FABRICATION BY POLICEMAN ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE AND APPARENTLY INTENDED JUSTIFY HIS ABSENCE FROM DUTY).

3. CONCERNING PRESIDENT'S AND AMIAMA'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE DURING LATTER'S TENURE, FREITES SAID HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT HAD GONE VERY FAR IN ACCOMMODATING AMIAMA. NOTED AMIAMA NOT VERY SOPHISTICATED AND LACKING IN SUBTLETY AND PATIENCE, HOLDING HE OPERATES LIKE BULL, CHARGING STRAIGHT AHEAD ON SET COURSE UNTIL HE RUNS INTO BRICK WALL AND LOOKING ONLY SUPERFICIALLY AT WHAT PASSED ON WAY. FREITES SPECULATED AMIAMA BELIEVES HE HAD GONE AS FAR AS HE COULD OR AS HE WOULD BE ABLE GO.

4. DURING BRIEF COMMENTARY ON CURRENT POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS, FREITES SAID AMIAMA HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH RESURGENCE OF UCN, STATING AMIAMA NOT PARTIAL TO CIVICOS AND WOULD NOT LEND HIMSELF TO THEIR PURPOSES. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HOWEVER, HE MADE NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER ON AMBASSADOR'S REFERENCE TO AMIAMA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PRD--POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE NOT AWARE OF IT. CONCERNING PENA GOMEZ, FREITES SAID HE BELIEVED ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PENA (HDC-3541, SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM) WAS COMPLETE FABRICATION.

5. FREITES ALSO STATED AMIAMA HAD POSSESSION COPIES OF

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TWO LETTERS FROM RAMFIS TRUJILLO. ONE WAS TO DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR TO GUATEMALA PORFIRIO DANTES CASTILLO REQUESTING ISSUANCE TO RAMFIS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. OTHER

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CONTAINED ASSERTION BY RAMFIS THAT HE CONTRIBUTED TO BALAGUER'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN. FREITES SAID AMIAMA HAD INFORMED PRESIDENT ABOUT FORMER BUT HAD NOT TOLD HIM OF LATTER.

6. PRESIDENT INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR APRIL 27 (IN FAR-RANGING CONVERSATION BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY) THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH AMIAMA HAD BEEN UNIMPAIRED BY LATTER'S RESIGNATION, AND THAT LATTER HAD CHOSEN GENTEEL (AIROSA-- CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED AS FACE-SAVING OR SUCCESSFUL) WAY OUT. BALAGUER SAID THAT AS GESTURE SOLIDARITY, THOUGH NOT CLEAR AT WHOSE INITIATIVE, AMIAMA WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM ON HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN HIGUEY APRIL 30. (IN THIS REGARD AMIAMA LATER CONFIRMED TO CHARGE ON APRIL 28 HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT AND SAID HE CONSIDERED IT PATRIOTIC DUTY SHOW SELF PUBLICLY IN BALAGUER'S COMPANY IN ORDER DISPELL BELIEF ANY SERIOUS SPLIT BETWEEN THEM.) PRESIDENT ALSO STATED HE WAS PLANNING TO VISIT IMBERT.

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(AS IT DEVELOPED, BALAGUER AND FERNANDO AMIAMA SPENT SOME 45 MINUTES WITH IMBERT SHORTLY AFTER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR. FERNANDO TOLD AMBASSADOR EVENING OF 27TH HE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS--THEY PRESUMABLY SPOKE OF IMBERT'S FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN US.)

7. IN CONTEXT OF ASKING PRESIDENT WHETHER HE FELT LIMITED IN ANY SENSE BY MILITARY AND/OR POLICE PRESSURES ON HIM, WHICH PRESIDENT STRONGLY AND CATEGORICALLY DENIED, AND AS TO EFFECT CHARGES OF TRUJILLISMO MAY BE HAVING ON OPPOSITION AND POPULATION AT LARGE, AMBASSADOR ASKED PRESIDENT WHAT HAD MOTIVATED APPOINTMENT OF HERRAND (WHICH HAS STIMULATED STRONGLY ADVERSE ACROSS-THE-BOARD PRIVATE REACTION, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC COMMENTARY). PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HERREAND HAD BEEN LIVING POORLY ON HIS PENSION AND HAD, THROUGH UNSPECIFIED INTERMEDIARIES, ASKED HIM TO AUTHORIZE INCREASE. THIS WAS APPARENTLY OUT OF QUESTION UNDER ORGANIC LAW OF POLICE, SO "THEY" (PRESUMABLY INTERMEDIARIES) HAD

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SUGGESTED HERRAND BE REAPPOINTED, STATING HE WILLING TAKE DROP IN RANK TO MAJOR. PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD AGREED TO THIS, INDICATING HERREAND WOULD HAVE NO ACTIVE FUNCTION,

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STATING HE CAN STAY AT HOME, IN UNIFORM IF HE WISHES, AND WAIT FOR MONTHLY CHECK. PRESIDENT INDICATED HE KNEW HERRAND TO BE BRUTAL BUT NOT AWARE HE KILLER AND TORTURER. PRESIDENT SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FERNANDO AMIAMA HAD RAISED ISSUE WITH HIM FEW DAYS BEFORE AND INDICATED SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENT ON HERRAND MIGHT BE WORKED OUT.

8. CONCERNING REPORT SOTO ECHAVARRIA HAD REFUSED SHOW AMIAMA, PRESIDENT SAID IT IMPLICATED IMBERT IN ALLEGED PLOTTING ACTIVITIES BUT NOT AMIAMA. EL NACIONAL THIS AFTERNOON CONFIRMED THIS IN LEAD STORY BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH POLICEMAN (MARCELINO ANTONIO LANTIGUA) RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORT. ACCORDING NACIONAL, REPORT CONSISTED OF LANTIGUA STATEMENTS TO POLICE INTERROGATORS IN WHICH HE LIMITED HIMSELF TO DENYING "EVERYTHING RELATED TO SUPPOSED PLOT THAT, ACCORDING POLICE, IS HEADED BY IMBERT." PAPER REPORTED LANTIGUA HAS BEEN OUSTED FROM POLICE EFFECTIVE APRIL 30.

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