

OO FCO

OO WASHINGTON

OO PORT OF SPAIN

RR KINGSTON

RR NASSAU

RR GEORGETOWN

GRS 550

RESTRICTED

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 289 OF 14 OCTOBER 83

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PORT OF SPAIN

INFO ROUTINE KINGSTON, NASSAU, GEORGETOWN

GRENADA

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

From BRIDGETOWN

(17)

HDS/WIAD  
NEWS DEPT

INFO DEPT

POST

PS(6)

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR WHITNEY

MRCIFFARD

MR URE

MR WRIGHT

RC

CABINET OFFICE

No 10

1. THE SITUATION AT 1700 HOURS (LOCAL) TODAY WAS THAT:
  - (A) SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE SENT HOME AT LUNCH TIME TODAY:
  - (B) CROWDS (MOSTLY YOUNG PEOPLE) HAD GATHERED IN THE STREETS OF ST GEORGE'S:
  - (C) THERE WAS A LOT OF EVIDENCE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN ST GEORGE'S:
  - (D) MILITARY PRESENCE AROUND RADIO FREE GRENADA WAS SOLDIERS IN FULL BATTLEDRESS. THEY HAVE TAKEN UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS:
  - (E) ST GEORGE'S REMAINS GENERALLY CALM BUT ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION REMAINS:
  - (F) SOME MINISTERS DID NOT GO TO THEIR OFFICES TODAY EG RADIX (PARA 2 OF TUR) MISS CREFT (EDUCATION - FORMER GIRL FRIEND OF BISHOP):
  - (G) NEWS MEDIA IN EASTERN CARIBBEAN HAVE NOW JOINED IN THE FUN LARGELY AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF ANNOUNCEMENTS BY RADIO FREE GRENADA (RFG) SINCE MIDDAY TODAY. THESE REPORTED THAT CHIEF OF PM'S SECURITY UNIT HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A PLOT TO KILL BISHOP. INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUING: COARD HAD RESIGNED FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A PLOT TO KILL BISHOP. HIS RESIGNATION WAS SUPPOSED TO NAIL THE LIE OF HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT: A SPOKESMAN FOR 'SECURITY FORCES' WHO WARNED AGAINST DANGER OF COUNTER REVOLUTION. HE PROMISED VIGOROUS ACTION BY SECURITY FORCES AGAINST RUMOUR MONGERS AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES.
  - (H) AT ONE POINT LOCAL RADIO REPORTED SELWYN STRACHAN (MINISTER FOR NATIONAL MOBILISATION AND INFORMATION) HAD ANNOUNCED THAT COARD HAD TAKEN OVER AS PRIME MINISTER BUT THE SOURCE WAS NOT CLEAR AND IT WAS NOT REPEATED.
2. IT SEEMS THAT THERE WAS A STORMY CABINET MEETING ON THE EVENING OF 12 OCTOBER (AT WHICH THERE MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN A FRACAS). COARD APPARENTLY TRIED TO FORCE THE ISSUE OF ACCELERATING GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ALSO INCREASING THE PRESSURE ON THE 'BOURGEOIS' ELEMENT IN GRENADA. BISHOP OPPOSED THIS AND DEFENDED HIS PRESENT POLICY OF DEALING WITH THESE TWO ELEMENTS BY STEALTH. LOUISON (MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE) ACCUSED COARD OF SEEKING POWER. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS CABINET MEETING THAT BISHOP MADE THE BRIEF EARLY MORNING BROADCAST REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF THE

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3. THE SITUATION REMAINS CONFUSED, BUT I FEEL THAT DESPITE HIS APPARENT RESIGNATION, COARD SEEMS TO BE marginally AHEAD OF THE GAME. HE IS FREE AGENT WHEREAS THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT BISHOP IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST. KELLY BELIEVES THAT LAYNE (PARA 2 OF TUR) AND LT COL LIAM JAMES ( THE OTHER DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE) HAVE EFFECTIVELY TAKEN OVER FROM GENERAL HUDSON AUSTIN, COMMANDER, PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (PRA) AND A BISHOP MAN. HE ALSO SUSPECTS THAT THEY HEAD A GROUP OF PRA OFFICERS WHO PROVIDE THE MAIN SUPPORT FOR COARD WITH THE MAJORITY OF RANK AND FILE OF PRA PROBABLY LOYAL TO BISHOP. I SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS VIEW WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PRESENT PERIOD OF CON-FUSION/INDECISION. KELLY ALSO BELIEVES THAT COARD HAS THE ADVANTAGE AT THIS STAGE.

4. UNISON WHITEMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER, PASSED THROUGH BARBADOS TODAY EN ROUTE TO GRENADA. INTERVIEWED AT THE AIRPORT HE FUDGED MOST QUESTIONS BUT COMMENTED THAT QUOTE IF WE SWITCH PRIME MINISTERS, WE SWITCH PRIME MINISTERS, THE REVOLUTION GOES ON UNQUOTE. THIS SOUNDS RATHER PRO COARD.

5. COARD (WHO HAS LITTLE, IF ANY, GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT, IN CONTRAST TO BISHOP) HAS CLEARLY MADE A TAKEOVER BID WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IMMEDIATELY SUCCESSFUL; BUT HE STILL LOOKS TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A STRAIGHT FLUS IN THIS PARTICULAR GAME OF POKER.

MONTGOMERY

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