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DD 221200Z BRIDGETOWN

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DESKBY 221200Z

FROM FCO 220920Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN

TELEGRAM NUMBER 291 OF 22 OCTOBER 1983

AND TO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON PORT OF SPAIN, GEORGETOWN NASSAU KINGSTON, BELMOPAN, GOVERNOR MONTSERRAT AND ATHENS (FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY), MOD (RC AND CSDO)

GRENADA

1. ROBERT FELLOWES (ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE) CONTACTED SIR PAUL SCOON GOVERNOR GENERAL OF GRENADA BY TELEPHONE AT 0900Z THIS MORNING.
2. SCOON TOLD HIM THAT AUSTIN CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COUNCIL CALLED ON HIM YESTERDAY TO CONFIRM THAT MILITARY COUNCIL IN CONTROL, BUT THAT WITHIN THREE DAYS HE INTENDED TO ANNOUNCE COMPOSITION OF BROADLY BASED CABINET REPRESENTING ALL WALKS OF LIFE. IN ANSWER TO DIRECT QUESTIONS AUSTIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO FILL ROLE OF PRIME MINISTER. MILITARY WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED IN CABINET. ASKED BY SCOON WHETHER INTENTION WAS TO RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, AUSTIN REPLIED 'NOT AT THIS STAGE'.
3. SCOON URGED AUSTIN TO HOLD ENQUIRY INTO DEATHS OF BISHOP AND OTHERS. AUSTIN AGREED SAYING THAT 18 PEOPLE HAD DIED. SCOON BELIEVES THE ACTUAL FIGURE TO BE MUCH HIGHER.
4. AUSTIN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO ST VINCENT TO MEET PRIME MINISTER CATO OVER THE WEEKEND (WE PRESUME AUSTIN'S AIM MUST BE TO HEAD OFF ANY INITIATIVE BY CARICOM GOVERNMENTS CALLING FOR ACTION, MILITARY OR OTHERWISE AGAINST GRENADA)
5. GOVERNOR GENERAL ASSURED FELLOWES THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO HIMSELF OR TO LADY SCOON, AND THAT THEY WERE BOTH IN GOOD FORM. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT CURFEW WOULD BE LIFTED AT 0600 HOURS LOCAL TIME (1000Z) TOMORROW.
6. FOR WASHINGTON YOU MAY INFORM THE AMERICANS OF THE ABOVE IN STRICT CONFIDENCE EMPHASISING THE PRIVACY OF ANY CONTACTS

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BETWEEN THE PALACE AND THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.
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