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OO ATHENS

OO BRIDGETOWN

OO PORT OF SPAIN

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FROM WASHINGTON 222150Z OCT 83.

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3084 OF 22 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE ATHENS (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY), BRIDGETOWN,  
PORT OF SPAIN, KINGSTON, NASSAU, NODUK (FOR RC AND CSDO).

NY TELEGRAM NO. 3078; GRENADA.

ADMIRAL HOWE TOLD HEAD OF CHANCERY THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NSC MEETING WAS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PROCEED VERY CAUTIOUSLY. THE CARRIER GROUP BASED ON THE U.S.S. INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HAD BEEN HEADING FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN, HAD BEEN DIVERTED SOUTH TO THE CARIBBEAN. ITS PRESENT POSITION WAS EAST OF THE SOUTHERN TIP OF FLORIDA AND DUE NORTH OF PUERTO RICO. THE AMPHIBIOUS GROUP INCLUDING 1,900 MARINES AND TWO LANDING CRAFT WAS TWO HUNDRED MILES FURTHER EAST. THE INDEPENDENCE WOULD REACH THE AREA TOMORROW, BUT WOULD REMAIN WELL TO THE EAST OF DOMINICA, AND WELL NORTH OF GRENADA. THE AMPHIBIOUS GROUP WOULD REACH THE SAME AREA LATER TOMORROW. THIS WOULD GIVE THE U.S. THE OPTION TO REACT IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED IT.

2. HOWE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER, THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS GOING BEYOND THESE CONTINGENCY DEPLOYMENTS. THEY HAD RECEIVED A FIRM REQUEST FROM THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO HELP THEM RESTORE PEACE AND ORDER IN GRENADA. THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA AND BARBADOS WERE SUPPORTING THIS REQUEST (WE CONFIRMED THAT ADAIS HAD RELAYED A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO US). NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE ON HOW TO RESPOND. THERE WAS A NEED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE ISLAND. THE U.S. CITIZENS AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL SAID THAT THEY WERE ALRIGHT. THE AMERICANS WERE TRYING TO GET TWO CONSULAR OFFICERS IN TO TALK TO THEM AND OTHER U.S. CITIZENS. THE PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS DID NOT WANT THEM TO TALK TO AUSTIN. OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD LISTEN TO WHATEVER WAS SAID TO THEM. THE REGIME SEEMED TO BE AN UNPLEASANT BAND OF EXTREME LEFT WING THUGS. BOTH AUSTIN AND THE CUBANS WERE SHOWING ACUTE NERVOUSNESS AT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN AND U.S. INTERVENTION. HOWE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE CARIBBEAN LEADERS THEMSELVES TO CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD. THE AMERICANS WOULD BE ASKING THEM TO INDICATE MORE PRECISELY WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND, IN TERMS OF ACTION TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

3. HOWE GAVE A CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE THAT IF THE AMERICANS TOOK ACTION TO EVACUATE U.S. CITIZENS, THEY WOULD EVACUATE BRITISH CITIZENS AS WELL. RENWICK THANKED HIM FOR THIS. WE HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSURANCES WITH THE PENTAGON. HOWE ALSO ASSURED US THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSULTATION IF THE AMERICANS DECIDED TO TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS.

4. HOWE ASKED ABOUT HMS ANTRIM. WE SAID THAT YOU WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER ANTRIM SHOULD MOVE CLOSER TO THE AREA (AND HAVE NOW TOLD HIM THAT THIS IS BEING DONE.)

5. WE ALSO MENTIONED THE REPORTS THAT AUSTIN MAY MEET CATO. THE AMERICANS AGREE THAT IT WILL BE WORTH SEEING IF ANYTHING POSITIVE COMES OF THIS.

6. HOWE AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH.

WRIGHT

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