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NASSAU WASHINGTON

YOUR TELHO 295: GRENADA

1. THESE ARE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER. MUCH OF OUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSONALITIES AND POLICIES OF THE RULING FEW IN GRENADA IS EITHER SUSPECT OR SECOND HAND. WELL SERVED AS WE ARE BY KELLY IN ST GEORGE'S, HIS MOVEMENTS ARE CONSTRAINED AND HE HAS NOT, SO FAR AS I KNOW, SEEN COARD OR HUDSON AUSTIN SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER. I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONSULT HIM BUT SECURE COMMUNICATION IS DIFFICULT.

2. AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM EARLIER TELEGRAMS, DHC IS NOW IN GRENADA AND IS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH THE MILITARY COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL; HE WILL ALSO OF COURSE SEE KELLY. WE EXPECT HIM BACK IN BRIDGETOWN TOMORROW AND I SHALL TELEGRAPH AGAIN WHEN I HAVE SPOKEN TO HIM. MEANWHILE MY COMMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

3. I AGREE THAT THOSE IN CONTROL OF GRENADA MUST KNOW THAT THERE

IS A RISK OF FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION. TO AVOID THIS THEY COULD WELL UNDERTAKE TO HOLD ELECTIONS AND RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, KNOWING THAT THE LONGER INTERVENTION IS DELAYED THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WILL BECOME. BUT FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM COARD AND AUSTIN THEY MIGHT NOT HONOUR THEIR UNDERTAKINGS. COARD IS A HARD LINE MARXIST. AUSTIN WAS DESCRIBED TO ME TODAY BY A BARBADIAN WHO KNOWS HIM AS A HEAR-ILLITERATE THUG.

4. I CAN IDENTIFY NO OTHER POLITICAL FORCES IN GRENADA WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY. WE CAN I HOPE EXCLUDE SIR E GAIRY. MOST OF THOSE OTHERS ROUND WHOM A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE COALESCED EITHER LEFT GRENADA AFTER BISHOP'S TAKEOVER OR HAVE BEEN IN DETENTION FOR SOME TIME FOR THIS VERY REASON.

5. THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED ABOUT GRENADA ARE UNLIKELY IN THEIR PRESENT MOOD TO BE PREPARED TO PROMOTE OR GO ALONG WITH ANY ATTEMPT BY A THIRD PARTY TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MILITARY COUNCIL. THE OUTRAGE EXPRESSED BY ADAMS AND OTHER CARIBBEAN LEADERS ABOUT THE KILLING OF BISHOP AND HIS COLLEAGUES IS I BELIEVE GENUINE AND SEEMS TO REFLECT PUBLIC OPINION AS A WHOLE. (THIS IS BECAUSE OF THEIR CHRISTIAN DISLIKE OF MURDER, NOT BECAUSE THEY APPROVED OF BISHOP'S POLICIES). I DISCOUNT TO A LARGE EXTENT THE CATO OFFER. WE ARE TOLD IT WAS MADE AGAINST THE STRONG ADVICE OF HIS OECS COLLEAGUES, AND IT CONTRADICTS THEIR UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION. AUSTIN'S REPORTED DESIRE FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IS AT ODDS WITH WHAT HE TOLD THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL YESTERDAY AND WITH WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW OF THE REASONS FOR HIS DISPUTE WITH BISHOP. LATEST REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE CARRIACOU MEETING MAY NOT IN FACT TAKE PLACE.

6. I SHARE THE SURPRISE OF THOSE WHO SEE THE US AND OURSELVES BEING ASKED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY, AND I HAVE SOME DOUBTS AS TO HOW THE OPERATION

WILL TURN OUT, IF THE AMERICANS MASTER-MIND IT. BUT I DO NOT
THINK YOUR IDEA IS A STARTER. PEOPLE LIKE ADAMS, COMPTON AND
MISS CHARLES (I DO NOT KNOW SEAGA OR CHAMBER) ARE COMMONSENSE
POLITICIANS WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE, AND VERY FAR FROM BEING
HAWKS. THEY ARE I THINK THE BEST JUDGES OF HOW TO HANDLE THE
PROBLEM PRESENTED BY THE MILITARY COUP IN GRENADA. IF THEY AND
THEIR CARICOM COLLEAGUES COME OUT IN FAVOUR OF A MULTI-NATIONAL
FORCE AND IF THE US SUPPORTS THE IDEA, I RECOMMEND WE SHOULD
GIVE OUR SUPPORT TOO OR AT THE VERY LEAST TAKE NO STEPS THAT MIGHT
WEAKEN THE OPERATION.

BULLARD