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HL

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 October 1983

Grenada

This is to record that on the evening of 22 October the Prime Minister spoke on the telephone to Mr. Luce (in the absence of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in Athens), the Lord President and the Secretary of State for Defence.

It was agreed by all concerned that our attitude to the proposal of some of the CARICOM states that we should consider military intervention in Grenada should be extremely cautious. There were many arguments against such dramatic action. Following the telephone conversations, the Prime Minister approved the proposal that HMS Antrim should sail from Colombia to the area of Grenada (while remaining over the horizon) but that it should be made abundantly clear in public that this was a precautionary move designed purely to help with the evacuation of British subjects from Grenada should this be necessary. It was further agreed that there should be a meeting of OD(EM) first thing on Monday morning.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

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Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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