

DVF 6 079/22

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LJR 741

OO FCO

OO WASHINGTON

OO PORT OF SPAIN

OO NASSAU

OO KINGSTON

OO BELNAPAN

OO TFC RELAY

GRS 450

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

FM BRIDGETOWN 22/1432Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 330 OF 22 OCTOBER

MIPT: MEETING WITH GEORGE PRICE

*and to Washington Port of Spain Nassau
Kingston - Belnapan*

ADVANCE COPY
IMMEDIATE

+ 9/5

*Head WMA's.
1010 SS (2)
Dro Cab. Office
RC/Mo's
RC*

1. PRICE TOLD ME THAT BELIZE HAD BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORCE. THIS PLACED HIM IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. AS HE SAW IT THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS:

A. GUYANA WOULD NOT BE ATTENDING THE CARICOM MEETING IN TRINIDAD.

B. ADDERLSLEY (FOREIGN MINISTER, BAHAMAS) HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD BE ADVISING PINDLING NOT TO COMMIT BAHAMAS.

C. IN HIS VIEW INTERVENTION WOULD CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. (THOUGH SEAGA HAD ARGUED FORCIBLY THAT THIS WAS NOT SO).

A COMPARISON WITH RECRUIT KILLINGS IN HONDURAS.

2. PRICE SAID THAT BEFORE HE COULD REPLY TO THE OECS/CARICOM REQUEST HE WOULD NEED TO KNOW THE UK POSITION AND TO CONSULT HIS CABINET. HE ASKED ME WHAT THE UK'S POSITION WAS. I SAID:

A. I WOULD BE REPORTING ADAMS' MESSAGE TO LONDON IMMEDIATELY.

B. HMG WERE DISPOSED TO HELP IN ANY WAY THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BRINGING PEACE TO GRENADA AND HELP RESTORE THE COUNTRY TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

C. WE COULD NOT TAKE A FORMAL POSITION UNTIL WE RECEIVED THE OECS LETTER AND SAW ITS PRECISE TERMS.

3. I ADDED THAT WE FOUND THE SITUATION IN GRENADA DISTRESSING, BUT THAT WE WERE BEING ASSURED BY THE MILITARY COUNCIL THAT FOREIGN CITIZENS WERE IN NO DANGER AND WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

4. PRICE WENT ON TO SAY THAT:

A. GRENADA HAD SUPPORTED BELIZE DURING THE MOVES TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE IN 1981.

B. THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN HAD REFUSED TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MILITARY TRAINING TEAM IN BELIZE IN 1981. THIS POINT STILL RANKLED.

C. PRICE ENDED BY SAYING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW FORBES BURNHAM WOULD REACT TO THESE PROPOSALS. HE REMAINED A MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN THE REGION. I SAID TO PRICE THAT HE MUST ULTIMATELY BE THE BEST JUDGE OF WHERE BELIZE'S INTERESTS LAY. HE REPLIED THAT HIS JUDGEMENT AT THE PRESENT WAS TO KEEP BELIZE OUT.

BULLARD

CCh. PARA 1 BM ADDERSLEY

NNNN