

ADVANCE COPY

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IMMEDIATE

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TELNO 173 OF 23 OCTOBER

Hd/WIAD

DIO - Cabinet Office

No 10 DS(2)

MOD - R-C

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INFO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN, ATHENS (FOR PS TO 5 OF S),

WASHINGTON, KINGSTON, NASSAU, GEORGETOWN

YOUR TELNO 295 TO BRIDGETOWN: GRENADA

1. YOU WILL KNOW FROM COOK'S LETTER CITED IN MY TELNO 172 THAT THE TRINIDAD NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, MEETING UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER, HAS CONSIDERED THE IDEA OF MILITARY INTERVENTION AND AGREED:

- (1) THAT SUCH INTERVENTION BY TRINIDAD WOULD BE A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL POLICY;
- (2) THAT TRINIDAD DID NOT HAVE THE MILITARY CAPABILITY TO MOUNT AN OPERATION ON HER OWN;
- (3) THAT A JOINT CARICOM OPERATION WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO MOUNT AND BE TOO DIFFICULT TO COORDINATE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

(PLEASE TREAT THIS INFORMATION AS HIGHLY SENSITIVE).

2. THUS THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST UNLIKELY TO INVOLVE TRINIDAD FORCES IN ANY OPERATIONS, AND COULD

WELL WARN OTHER CARICOM STATES AGAINST THEM.

3. A VERY RAPID AND SUCCESSFUL MILITARY OPERATION, CARRIED OUT LARGELY BY THE US AT OECS REQUEST, MIGHT BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. IF THE NON-REGIONAL ELEMENTS WITHDREW ALMOST AT ONCE, AND GRENADA WERE QUICKLY PUT ON THE PATH TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PRIVATELY PLEASED AT SUCH AN OUTCOME, WHICH COULD BE WIDELY POPULAR IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT I AM INCLINED TO DOUBT WHETHER THEY WOULD ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE INVITATION.

4. WITHOUT SOME SUCH COURSE OF EVENTS, I DO NOT THINK THAT THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT HAVE YET WORKED OUT WHERE THEY GO FROM HERE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME YESTERDAY (MY TELNO 171) THAT HE HAD NOT GIVEN THOUGHT TO MEASURES GOING BEYOND THOSE ANNOUNCED ON 20 OCTOBER (MY TELNO 170). HE SEEMED VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY DEALINGS WITH THE REGIME. THE TRINIDADIANS COULD STICK TO THIS PRINCIPLE FOR A LONG TIME. IT TOOK THEM ABOUT THREE YEARS TO BRING THEMSELVES TO HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DEALINGS WITH BISHOP, AND THE REVULSION AROUSED HERE BY THE PRESENT COUP OF COURSE FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF 1979.

5. SO I DO NOT THINK THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT WOULD WANT TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH ANY NEGOTIATIONS. THEY MIGHT WELL WARN THEIR CARICOM PARTNERS THAT ANY WILLINGNESS BY THE REGIME TO TALK COULD BE DESIGNED TO STRING CARICOM ALONG WHILE THE REGIME ENTRENCHES ITSELF.

6. PRESIDENT BURNHAM IS EXPECTED HERE AT ANY MOMENT (PACE PRICE - BRIDGETOWN TELNO 330 REFERS).

LANE