

DWF G 064/23

LGQ 533/023

LJR 747

ZZ FCO

OO WASHINGTON DESKBY 231700Z

OO PORT OF SPAIN DESKBY 231700Z

OO TFCRELAY DESKBY 231700Z

GRS 320

SECRET

TFCRELAY

FM BRIDGETOWN 231625Z OCT 83

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 337 OF 23 OCTOBER

IMMEDIATE TO WASHINGTON PORT OF SPAIN

GRENADA

1. PRIME MINISTER ADAMS HAS BROUGHT US UP TO DATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN TRINIDAD YESTERDAY. HE HAS ASKED US TO GIVE THIS INFORMATION PARTICULAR PROTECTION. HE IS NOT ATTENDING TRINIDAD MEETING BUT IS BEING KEPT CLOSELY INFORMED.
2. ADAMS SAID THAT CARICOM GOVERNMENTS WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO CONVERGING (SIC) GROUPS, ONE GROUP BEING THE OECS COUNTRIES, BARBADOS, JAMAICA AND POSSIBLY THE BAHAMAS: THE OTHER, TRINIDAD BELIZE AND GUYANA. ADAMS SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE TRINIDAD MEETING WOULD BE A CALL TO THE MILITARY COUNCIL TO LAY DOWN ITS ARMS AND HAND OVER THE GOVERNMENT TO A REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE, PROBABLY CHAIRED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, WHICH WOULD ARRANGE EARLY ELECTIONS. THE OECS GROUP WOULD SEE THIS AS AN 'ULTIMATUM' THE MINORITY AS A 'PLEA'. THE POSITION OF THE MINORITY GROUP ON MILITARY ACTION WAS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE NEUTRAL, NOT OPPOSED.
4. ADAMS SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE OECS GROUP WOULD RETURN TO BARBADOS THIS AFTERNOON (SUNDAY) FOLLOWING WHICH

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Lead WIA (2)
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Ps (6)
Ps Lady Young
Ps Mr Whitley
Ps Ros
Mr Gilford
Mr Lee
Dio Cab. Office
No 10 Jett (2)
Sir P. Moore, Buckingham Palace.
RC/Mtd.
CSB/Mtd.

RC.

NEUTRAL, NOT OPPOSED.

4. ADAMS SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE OECS GROUP WOULD RETURN TO BARBADOS THIS AFTERNOON (SUNDAY) FOLLOWING WHICH FORMAL REQUESTS FOR MILITARY SUPPORT FROM NON-OECS COUNTRIES WOULD BE SENT. CANADA MIGHT BE ADDED TO THE FOUR COUNTRIES ALREADY AGREED UPON.

5. ADAMS SAID THAT VIRTUALLY EVERYONE SAW THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL PLAYING THE KEY ROLE. IN ANY MILITARY ACTION ENSURING HIS SAFETY WOULD BE PARAMOUNT. ADAMS SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE UK WOULD BE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK.

6. ADAMS SAID THAT THE LOCAL MILITARY ASSESSMENT (HE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS ALREADY A US CONTRIBUTION TO THIS) WAS THAT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, ALREADY LOST, WAS NOT CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF A MILITARY OPERATION, THOUGH TACTICAL SURPRISE WOULD BE IMPORTANT. THE GRENADIANS WERE ASSESSED AS BEING AS WELL PREPARED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AS THEY EVER WILL BE. THE CUBANS IN GRENADA WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE MILITARY COUNCIL. ADAMS BELIEVED THE OPERATION WOULD BE CONCLUDED IN ABOUT HALF A DAY.

7. ADAMS CONFIRMED THAT US HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN LAST NIGHT IN C 130S AND WERE NOW IN HANGERS AT BARBADOS AIRPORT.

8. ADAMS SAID THAT COMPTON (PM ST LUCIA) HAD TOLD HIM IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT THE CATO /AUSTIN MEETING WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.

BULLARD

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