

GRENADA ADVANCE COPIES

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IMMEDIATE

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FM BRIDGETOWN 240299Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCC
TELEGRAM NUMBER 342 OF 23 OCTOBER 83
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, PORT OF SPAIN

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

WR 25/9

FOLLOWING FROM MONTGOMERY

GRENADA: GOVERNOR GENERAL

1. I RETURNED FROM A BRIEF (24 HOUR) VISIT TO GRENADA AT 1630 HOURS TODAY (23 OCTOBER).
2. AT 1100 HOURS THIS MORNING I CALLED ON SIR PAUL SCOON, GOVERNOR GENERAL. AS ALWAYS HE WAS CALM AND DIGNIFIED BUT I FORMED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY AFFECTED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TEN DAYS. HE REPEATED SOME OF THE COMMENTS HE HAD MADE IN PARTICULAR HIS URGING OF GENERAL HUDSON AUSTIN, CHAIRMAN REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL (RMC), TO HOLD AN ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF BISHOP AND OTHERS AT FORT RUPERT ON 19 OCTOBER. UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON ON 19 OCTOBER GOVERNOR GENERAL WAS CERTAIN THAT COARD WAS IN FULL CONTROL. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER COARD IS STILL AROUND BUT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONTENTS AND STYLE OF THE RECENT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS (INCLUDING THEIR MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT) OF THE RMC COULD HAVE BEEN DEVISED/DRAFTED BY THE 'IGNORANT, DIFFICULT AND UNSTABLE' OFFICERS THAT CONSTITUTE THE RMC.
3. WHEN THE CURFEW IS RELAXED TOMORROW (24TH) AT 0600 HOURS, GOVERNOR GENERAL BELIEVES THAT IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE PEOPLE OF GRENADA WILL DEMAND THAT THE RMC GIVE AN EXPLANATION OF FORT RUPERT DEATHS. HE WOULD ALSO EXPECT PEOPLE TO DEMAND BODIES OF BISHOP, WHITEMAN AND OTHER MINISTERS TO BE PRODUCED. HE ALSO SAID THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE EXECUTIONS OF BISHOP MISS CREEK

THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE EXECUTIONS OF BISHOP, MISS CREFT, WHITEMAN, AND BAIN (MINISTER FOR HOUSING) WERE CARRIED OUT BY THREE MEMBERS OF THE RMC AND THAT THESE NAMES ARE KNOWN. HE DOUBTS THAT THESE THREE OFFICERS (WHOM HE DID NOT NAME) WILL BE ALLOWED TO GO UNPUNISHED. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT PEOPLE OF GRENADA HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON. HE COMMENTED THAT THE 'BISHOP EXPERIMENT HAD NOT WORKED'. HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE BROADLY BASED ~~CABINET~~ ^{CABINET} - ENVISAGED BY THE RMC - TO FUNCTION. TOO MANY FAMILIES IN GRENADA HAD BEEN TOUCHED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FOUR AND A HALF YEARS.

4. I STEERED THE CONVERSATION ROUND TO THE MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF OECS AND CARICOM TO CONSIDER GRENADA CRISIS, AND SAID THAT HE WAS WIDELY REGARDED BY HIS FELLOW WEST INDIANS AS THE SYMBOL IN GRENADA OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE HAD EXPECTED AS MUCH. HE HAD CONSIDERED HIS POSITION CAREFULLY AND HAD DECIDED THAT HIS BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO REMAIN AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND WAIT FOR AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO ARISE WHERE HE COULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. I THEN REFERRED TO PRESS AND OTHER REPORTS THAT A US NAVAL TASK FORCE HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO THE CARIBBEAN. SOME PEOPLE WERE INTERPRETING THIS AS MEANING THAT THE UNITED STATES, SUPPORTED BY A CARICOM FORCE, WOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY IN GRENADA TO STABILISE THE PRESENT EXTREMELY WORRYING SITUATION SO THAT PEOPLE OF GRENADA COULD CHOOSE HOW THEIR COUNTRY SHOULD BE GOVERNED IN FUTURE. I ENQUIRED WHETHER, IF SUCH MILITARY INTERVENTION TOOK PLACE, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IT BY EG BROADCASTING A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE ONCE THE INTERVENING FORCE HAD SECURED THE COUNTRY. HE REPLIED, WITHOUT ANY HESITATION, THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ELIMINATED IF HE MADE ANY MOVE THAT DIRECTLY CHALLENGED THE AUTHORITY OF THE RMC. HE DOUBTED THEREFORE THAT HE COULD ASK FOR OUTSIDE HELP. SHORT OF THAT HE COULD BE RELIED UPON TO DO WHATEVER WAS REQUIRED OF HIM, INCLUDING THE BROADCASTING OF AN APPROPRIATE MESSAGE TO HIS PEOPLE.

5. I THEN CALLED ON MAJOR CORNWALL (RMC): SEE MIFT.

BULLARD

NNNN

[Send to cabinet office]

correction

WA BROADLY BASED CABINET