

GRS 420
 UNCLASSIFIED
 FM BRIDGETOWN 241900Z OCT 83
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELGRAM NUMBER 348 OF 24 OCTOBER
 AND TO WASHINGTON PORT OF SPAIN KINGSTON AND CARACAS

HWR 014/2		
RECEIVED		
25 OCT 1983		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

MIPT: GRENADA

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OECS STATEMENT :

QUOTE:

THE AUTHORITY OF THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS) MET AT BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS ON FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 1983 TO CONSIDER AND EVALUATE THE SITUATION IN GRENADA ARISING OUT OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT LED BY PRIME MINISTER MAURICE BISHOP AND THE SUBSEQUENT KILLING OF THE PRIME MINISTER TOGETHER WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CITIZENS.

2. THE AUTHORITY IS AWARE THAT THE OVERTHROW OF THE BISHOP ADMINISTRATION TOOK PLACE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONNIVANCE OF FORCES UNFRIENDLY TO THE OECS, LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRESENT MILITARY REGIME.

3. THE MEETING TOOK NOTE OF THE CURRENT ANARCHICAL CONDITIONS, THE SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND BLOODSHED THAT HAVE OCCURRED, AND THE CONSEQUENT UNPRECEDENTED THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE REGION CREATED BY THE VACUUM OF AUTHORITY IN GRENADA.

4. THE AUTHORITY WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT MILITARY FORCES AND SUPPLIES ARE LIKELY TO BE SHORTLY INTRODUCED TO CONSOLIDATE THE POSITION OF THE REGIME AND THAT THE COUNTRY CAN BE USED AS A STAGING POST FOR ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ITS MEMBERS.

5. THE AUTHORITY FURTHER NOTED THAT THE CAPABILITY OF THE GRENADA ARMED FORCES IS ALREADY AT A LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION AND SIZE FAR BEYOND THE INTERNAL NEEDS OF THAT COUNTRY. FURTHERMORE THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OECS HAVE NO MEANS OF DEFENCE AGAINST SUCH FORCES.

6. THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE ORGANISATION HOLD THE STRONG VIEW THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD FURTHER UNDERMINE POLITICAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND WOULD HAVE EXTREMELY DAGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE OECS SUB-REGION AS A WHOLE.

17.

7. THE AUTHORITY NOTED THAT THE PRESENT REGIME IN GRENADA HAS DEMONSTRATED BY ITS BRUTALITY AND RUTHLESSNESS THAT IT WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO ACHIEVE ITS ENDS AND TO SECURE ITS POWER.

8. UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE 8 OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES, THE AUTHORITY PROPOSES THEREFORE TO TAKE ACTION FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENCE AND THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSION BY REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND ADDITIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ASSIST THE EFFORTS OF THE OECS TO STABILIZE THIS MOST GRAVE SITUATION WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN.

9. THE AUTHORITY OF THE OECS WISHES TO ESTABLISH A PEACE KEEPING FORCE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURING STATES TO RESTORE ON GRENADA CONDITIONS OF TRANQUILITY AND ORDER SO AS TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE AND ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS PENDING THE RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

UNQUOTE.

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