

TO BE CHECKED
AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN GRENADA TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE QC MP, IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 1983

With permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a statement on the situation in Grenada. The House will be aware of the violent events of last week on the independent Commonwealth island of Grenada. Her Majesty's Government join with those in the Caribbean region and elsewhere who have deplored the killings, and we view with grave concern the existing state of unconstitutional government and insecurity on the island.

We are particularly conscious that there are some 200 British citizens on Grenada including a number of British tourists. The Resident Representative of the British High Commission has been active in maintaining contact with this community and reports that no British citizens appear to be in immediate danger. The Deputy High Commissioner also visited Grenada from Barbados yesterday to make contact with the new authorities and to speak with the Governor General. He found the island calm but tense and confirmed that neither the Governor General nor members of the British Community appeared to be in any imminent danger.

Nonetheless the position remains extremely volatile. It is for this reason that Her Majesty's Government have instructed HMS Antrim to be prepared to evacuate our community should the situation worsen and make this necessary.

/Meanwhile

to remove the power
of military authority etc

Meanwhile we remain in close touch with the governments of the other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, whose leaders have been meeting in Trinidad. We shall be discussing with them and with other interested states the best prospects of helping to achieve a restoration of constitutional government, peace and security in Grenada.

I shall keep the House informed of developments.

'Cap included to Terrorism
'Play to doing harm'

Healy - own intervention.
P. Tapell - Cuba - Soviets.

Question? authority to remove Grenada.

U.S. - to remove own community.

Seek restriction of demonstrating in Grenada.

Spain - Harass Grenada End 1989

No reason to think that military intervention
is likely to take place.

1000 U.S. citizens.

Not good time for taking new decisions.
Review not good counter -

"Gulf War".

- 179th anniversary.

Thought about not suppose

Sitting down for another
General job.