

GRENADA ADVANCE COPIES

23

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Hd Protocol Dept.

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON 251415Z OCT 83

TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3111 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE BRIDGETOWN, OTTAWA, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDEL NATO

MY TELNO 3108: GRENADA PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AT 1300Z THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT REAGAN MADE A TELEVISED STATEMENT ON THE LINES OF MY TUR. SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES WERE:

(A) IN PARA 1, HE REFERRED TO SIX CARIBBEAN STATES, OMITTING MENTION OF ST KITTS.

(B) HE OMITTED THE PASSAGE FROM "WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN" IN PARA 3 TO THE END OF PARA 5 "EAST CARIBBEAN REGION".

2. THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE ROSTRUM BY PRIME MINISTER CHARLES OF DOMINICA, CHAIRMAN OF THE OECS. SPEAKING VERY ROBUSTLY, SHE SAID ALL EAST CARIBBEAN STATES WERE ONE FAMILY, FOR WHOM DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WERE VERY IMPORTANT. GRENADA HAD BEEN AN ABERRATION, BUT THEY HAD HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT BISHOP WAS BEGINNING TO SEE THINGS THEIR WAY AND PAVING THE WAY FOR ELECTIONS. THIS WAS PROBABLY WHY HE HAD BEEN KILLED. THE ASSASSINATIONS LAST WEEK HAD LEFT OECS GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT ANY CHOICE. ~~IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE US HAD THE RIGHT TO~~

~~THIS WAS PROBABLY WHY HE HAD BEEN KILLED. THE ASSASSINATIONS LAST WEEK HAD LEFT OECS GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT ANY CHOICE. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE US HAD THE RIGHT TO INVAD~~ INVAD ANOTHER COUNTRY, SHE SAID EMPHATICALLY 'THIS IS NOT AN INVASION'. THE OECS WERE ASKING FOR SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY LACKED THE MEANS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION THEMSELVES. SHE ENVISAGED THAT AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF GOOD NON-POLITICAL ADMINISTRATORS, WHO WOULD BE GRENADIANS, WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ORGANISE ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, SO THAT THE GRENADIAN PEOPLE COULD CHOOSE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

3. ASKED ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, MRS CHARLES SAID THERE HAD BEEN INDICATIONS IN THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATIONS TOOK PLACE OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN CUBA AND KNOWN GRENADIAN ACTIVISTS SOME OF WHOM HAD RETURNED TO THE ISLAND SOON BEFORE THESE EVENTS.

4. PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE HOW LONG THE US FORCES WOULD REMAIN ON THE GROUND. AS FAR AS HE KNEW, ALL US CITIZENS WERE SAFE. ASKED WHY THIS ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN WHEN YESTERDAY THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER TO US CITIZENS, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT MANY AMERICANS HAD SAID THEY WANTED TO LEAVE THE ISLANDS, BUT COULD NOT DO SO. IT WAS A CASE OF NOT WAITING UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM. REPORTS FROM THE ISLANDS INDICATED THAT A 24 HOUR CURFEW, WITH ORDERS FOR VIOLATORS TO BE SHOT ON SIGHT, WAS IN FORCE.

WRIGHT

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