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FROM F C O 251620Z OCT 83

TO FLASH WASHINGTON

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1774 OF 25 OCTOBER

INFO FLASH BRIDGETOWN, IMMEDIATE PORT OF SPAIN, KINGSTON,
NASSAU, UKMIS NEW YORK, OTTAWA, MODUK
GRENADA: CONVERSATION WITH SHULTZ

A. J. C. 26/10.

h-a-

1. SHULTZ SPOKE TO ME BY TELEPHONE AT 1345Z TO BRING ME UP-TO-DATE ON THE SITUATION IN GRENADA. HE SAID THAT THE US HAD RECEIVED AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE SIX OECS STATES UNDER THEIR TREATY ASKING FOR US HELP IN EFFORTS TO RESTORE ORDER. THE US WERE ALSO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS ON GRENADA (ABOUT 1,000) NOT BECAUSE THEY FACED A DIRECT THREAT, BUT BECAUSE OF THE CHAOTIC AND ESSENTIALLY MURDEROUS SITUATION ON THE ISLAND. THE OECS STATES TOGETHER WITH BARBADOS AND JAMAICA HAD CONCLUDED THAT THEY COULD NOT MOUNT AN OPERATION ON THEIR OWN. THE ACTUAL DECISION FOR THE US FORCES TO GO INTO ACTION HAD NOT BEEN MADE UNTIL LATE ON 24 OCTOBER. SHULTZ ADDED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT: THE AMERICANS HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND THE SAFETY OF UK CITIZENS.
2. ON THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND, SHULTZ SAID THAT THE TWO AIRPORTS HAD BEEN SECURED. US TROOPS HAD BEEN TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S HOUSE BUT THE LATTER HAD NOT BEEN THERE. REPORTS FROM THE ISLAND WERE STILL FRAGMENTARY. THE US WOULD PASS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THROUGH HM EMBASSY WASHINGTON. SHULTZ EMPHASISED THAT THIS WAS PRIMARILY AN ACTION OF THE REGIONAL STATES. THE PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA WHO WAS IN WASHINGTON WAS NOW INTENDING TO CONVENE THE OAS TO SEEK BROADER SUPPORT.
3. I SAID THAT SHULTZ WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE SAW DIFFERENT FACTORS. SOME OF THESE HAD BEEN SET OUT IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. THERE WAS VERY REAL CONCERN HERE, NOT LEAST AT THE IMPACT OF THE OPERATION IN EUROPE. ONE DIFFICULTY WAS THAT I HAD MADE A STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE ON 24 OCTOBER BASED ON THE

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INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US FROM THE US AT THAT TIME IN WHICH I HAD SAID THAT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTERWARDS, AND BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER HAD HAD A CHANCE TO REPLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

4. SHULTZ APOLOGISED FOR HAVING PUT US IN THIS POSITION. THE OECS REQUEST HAD ARRIVED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OF 23 OCTOBER. MCNEIL HAD BEEN SENT TO BRIDGETOWN AND HAD REPORTED THE STRONG CONCERNS OF THE REGIONAL STATES. ON THE STRENGTH OF THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DECIDED TO ACT.

5. I SAID THAT ON OUR READING OF THE OECS TREATY IT WAS NOT OPEN TO ONE MEMBER STATE TO REQUEST INTERVENTION OF ANOTHER. I ALSO UNDERLINED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND ASKED SHULTZ TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHERE HE WAS STAYING.

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